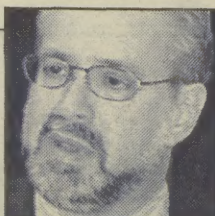


Public appeal for funds pays off
Berkeley's Pacific Center avoids cuts in hours, prepares for 30th anniversary.
page 17

Prevention concerns
Local and national HIV groups assail new CDC initiative.
pages 12 - 13



It's a man's world
In adventure mags and postwar pulps, at least.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 31 • 31 July 2003

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Paper's homophobic editorial draws outrage from gay Asian community

by Matthew S. Bajko

An editorial in a local Asian newspaper that used homophobic language has upset gay Asian groups who are calling for not only a retraction but also an apology.

On July 16, the South San Francisco-based *Philippine News* used anti-gay language to question the character of San Francisco deputy city attorney Sean Connolly. Connolly, a member of the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission, has been accused of using racially derogatory and sexist remarks by Jacqueline Lingad Ricci, another member of the commission, during a closed door session in June.

Connolly has denied the allegations, saying the tape-recording of the session proves he never used such language. Three other commissioners have filed affidavits supporting him.

City Attorney Dennis Herrera has recused his office from investigating the case and has turned it over to the Oakland City Attorney's office for review. It is unknown when the Oakland city attorney will release its report.

In its editorial, called "Case not closed," the nationally circulated Filipino newspaper defends Ricci, a Filipina and vice president of the commission, as a "decent, married woman who comes from a good family."

It then goes on to say of Connolly that "he can be all male or part female, we don't know. He could be a closet homosexual, or a virile stud. We don't know. He could be a cross-dresser who wears make-up and mini skirts. We don't know."

It goes on to say, "He could be the nicest man on the face of this planet, or a raving, racist lunatic who is attracted to children in the wrong way."

Connolly, who is married and has two children, said he was shocked when he read the editorial. It was the latest attack printed in the paper, which has printed other articles that have made fun of his Irish background.

"In the world of San Francisco politics, baseless and political accusations are to be expected. But for a major news publication to invoke blatantly homophobic characterizations to further their cause is repugnant and indefensible," Connolly said. "To me, it clearly is designed to say that if I am gay or transsexual or a cross dresser then I am less credible than my accuser or somehow her credibility is bolstered, which is absurd."

"It just smacks of the worst form

page 17 ►



Jane Philomen Cieland

Hot fun in the sun at Dore Alley

Rafe, left, and Mark took time at the Up Your Alley Fair Sunday, July 27 to enjoy each other under the sun. The South of Market leather event, a prelude to the Folsom Street Fair in September, drew more than 14,000 people, said Corey Carrillo, marketing director of Folsom Street Events. "It was about the same as last year, and we're really pleased because we've seen a 10 percent drop in other outdoor events," Carrillo said. Money raised from gate donations will be combined with revenue from the Folsom Street Fair and distributed to several community nonprofits in the fall. "Now, we're gearing up for Folsom," Carrillo added.

Explore HIV counseling study comes to an end

by Matthew S. Bajko

As the largest behavioral study ever conducted with gay and bisexual men comes to an end this month, its usefulness has been thrown into doubt by the latest battle over HIV prevention.

Called the Explore study, researchers in six cities spent the last four years collecting data on close to 4,300 men who have sex with men to see if intensive counseling could keep them HIV-negative. Those clinical trials ended today (Thursday July 31), and it will take eight months to a year before the study's results are

known.

By that time, however, the nation's approach to preventing HIV will most likely have undergone a sea change, with the primary concern of HIV prevention being people who are HIV-positive. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, pushed by the Bush administration and Republican lawmakers in Congress, is moving the bulk of its funding for HIV away from programs designed for people who are HIV-negative to programs focused solely on people who are HIV-positive.

Those changes are expected to be put in

page 18 ►

Mayoral candidate faces wrath of former volunteer

by Zak Szymanski

Allegations of drunken drama, political misconduct, and family-style squabbles can occur even in the littlest of places.

From the "only in San Francisco" file comes a story from the subset category known as "only in Jim Reid's campaign."

The openly gay Reid, 53, is the multi-year candidate for elected office now running for mayor for the second time.

Reid is famous for his election

year publicity stunts, which include cruising through town in his electric green car, sleeping in homeless shelters, buttonholing Muni riders, scaling billboards, and of course, building and displaying the "smallest house in San Francisco" — dubbed "ShelterOne" — as a solution to the city's homeless problem.

Recently, however, Reid found that his zealous efforts to employ and house the homeless may have backfired on him.

A series of e-mails received by the *Bay Area Reporter* and other media outlets reported that Reid's campaign was under investigation by the San Francisco Ethics Commission for allegedly using campaign funds to remodel his home.

Additionally, according to the e-mails, Reid's ShelterOne — which is kept on his property — was cited by building inspectors for being placed on a lot without permits, and Reid was cited for allowing people to

page 16 ►



Jim Reid

Rick Gerhart

INSIDE


BAR Talk	44
Classifieds	23
Lavender Tube	34
Lesbian Notions	8
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	42
Obituaries	21
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out There	30
Out & About	40
Past Out	10
Personals	45
Sports Complex	22

FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS

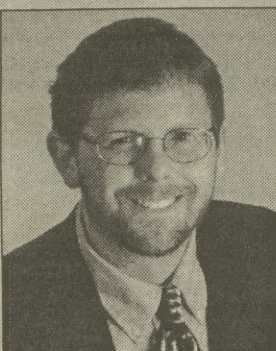
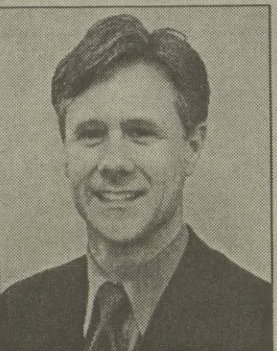


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New Leaf budget cuts less severe

Agency grapples with demand for services

by Matthew S. Bajko

After fearing it would have to implement major cuts in its programs for substance abuse treatment due to the city's fiscal problems, New Leaf: Services for Our Community has been able to cushion its budgetary blow.

Although the agency has had to shut down its meeting space for recovery groups, it was able to salvage its acupuncture program and is negotiating with health officials for additional funding specifically targeted to treat gay men with methamphetamine addictions.

Initially slated to receive \$300,000 in budget cuts, the agency saw that reduced to \$150,000. The funding cut will severely impact its outreach program.

The agency's two outreach workers will have their hours reduced from 30 hours to 12 and a half hours a week. The outreach workers' jobs are to go out into the community in the later afternoon and evening to talk to people and recruit clients for the agency's services.

"They hopefully plant a seed to get people into treatment," said Joseph Neisen, New Leaf's executive director.

As for the closure of the meeting space, Neisen said only two groups out of 25 still need to find a new place. Most of the groups will now meet in the LGBT Com-



New Leaf's Joe Neisen

munity Center just a few doors down from the former meeting space office on Market Street.

"The groups never paid for the full cost of the rooms. With the LGBT center, most will be able to afford the discounted rates at the center," said Neisen.

In addition, the agency is looking at sponsoring its own smaller Alcoholics Anonymous groups at its main offices. The groups that met at New Leaf's meeting space were not affiliated with the agency, they were simply community-based groups that rented space.

"For those groups that can't afford the minimum rate at the center, we are looking at how would we be able to afford that," said Neisen.

In addition to the restoration of some of New Leaf's funding, the health department has also been allocated \$300,000 by the Board of Supervisors to fund programs to address speed use by gay men. Along with several other agencies, New Leaf is expected to be granted some of the additional funding.

That would go toward reducing the agency's waiting list, which at times has been as long as three months. In the meantime, the agency has implemented several changes to help alleviate the wait.

No appointments are made beyond two weeks and there are now slots made available each week to immediately see those men looking for help. "When we would set up appointments, people would have to wait two to three weeks. If you make them wait that long

they won't show up to their appointment," said Neisen.

In an interview earlier this month, Neisen noted that over half of the clients seeking help with speed use are gay men.

"In the women's community, there is less crystal use," he noted.

New Leaf's clients are a diverse group, he said, and many have underlying mental health issues, or HIV, or another disability.

Neisen said the agency gets about 400-500 calls a month from people inquiring about all of the agency's services, which also include mental health and transgender programs.

Also, the agency has two drop-in acupuncture sessions to help people deal with their addictions. On Monday night from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and on Saturday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m., New Leaf offers free acupuncture on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Acupuncture is known to help decrease drug cravings," said Neisen. "It is considered a treatment service. It helps people relax and calms down stress."

As with virtually all local LGBT nonprofits, New Leaf is always looking for new sources of revenue. The agency's annual budget has dipped slightly from \$2.8 million to the current \$2.65 million, according to development director Brenda Larabee. To that end, the agency is currently involved in a challenge grant thanks to former Ambassador James Hormel, who pledged \$25,000 with the condition that New Leaf raise \$50,000 in new or increased funds from individuals by February 29, 2004. First time donors must contribute at least \$250, which can be paid over time; current donors must increase their gifts by at least \$100, Larabee explained.

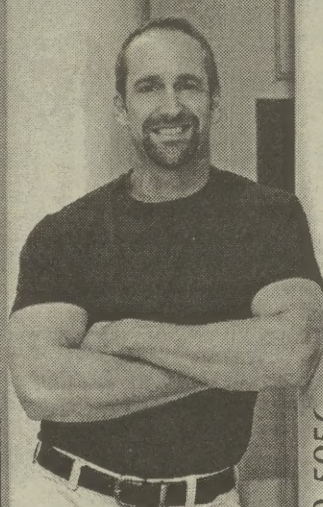
"We're about 20 percent there," Larabee said, referring to the challenge grant.

Neisen noted that it's particularly challenging for his agency to get corporate donations.

"The priorities where corporations give money — mental health and substance abuse — are at the bottom," he said. "The other thing we struggle with, even in San Francisco, is with the LGBT piece. We still end up doing a lot of education." ▼

For more information about New Leaf and its services, call (415) 626-7000. For donation information, contact Brenda Larabee at (415) 255-1767.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Funk addresses supporters, prepares for court-martial

by Zak Szymanski

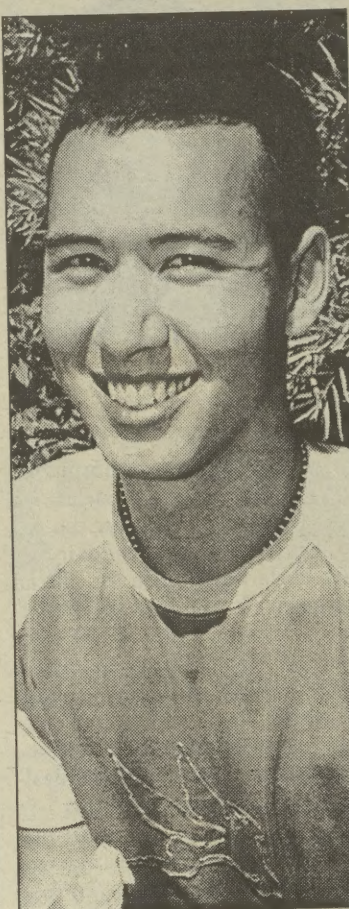
About 60 people gathered in the garden of a private home in the Castro on Sunday, July 27 to give a warm welcome and support to Stephen Funk, the openly gay marine who made international headlines in April when he turned himself in for deserting his unit and claimed conscientious objector status against the war in Iraq.

Funk, 20, had been stationed in San Jose before his unit was given deployment orders overseas. He was depressed and misguided, he said, when he originally joined the military, and his growing discomfort with being trained to kill eventually led him to follow his conscience. Funk reportedly would not have faced combat duties in Iraq, but would have been responsible for motivating fellow marines to kill others.

Although spokesmen for the United States Marines originally told reporters that Funk would likely receive desk duty as punishment, he has since been sent to a base in New Orleans, and will face a court-martial and possible jail time and a bad conduct discharge. His trial date has been moved to September 4, and is scheduled to last two days, although "the deck is stacked against us," said Funk's attorney, Steve Collier, who has taken the case pro bono and expects to see it through a lengthy appeals process.

At Sunday's gathering, which doubled as an informal fundraiser for Funk's legal costs associated with transportation and research, those in attendance asked Funk to speak about his ordeal.

Both Funk and Collier expressed the belief that the U.S. military is pressing charges out of retaliation for Funk speaking out and garnering publicity. For that reason, said Funk, he is seeking



Stephen Funk at Sunday's benefit

the help of the American Civil Liberties Union.

One supporter pointed out that Funk could have taken "the easy way out" and "told," meaning if he had disclosed his sexual orientation, he may not be facing such harsh consequences.

But Funk said that although "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is "an awful policy," it wasn't his issue when he decided to take a stand against the war.

"It wouldn't have been honest to use being gay as a way out," he said. "The thing in my mind the whole time was that I was being prepared to kill, and that would have affected me whether I was gay or not."

Since claiming conscientious objector status, said Funk, he has

spoken with many members of the armed forces who feel the same way he does, and who were unaware of a person's right to refuse to fight.

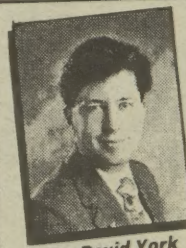
"A lot of people have e-mailed me," said Funk. "It's very natural to feel the same way I do. It's natural to oppose killing; boot camp is to train that out of you."

When the court-martial is behind him, Funk said he will continue his antirecruitment work and work against the Bush administration's "No Child Left Behind" law, which among other things makes federal aid to public high schools conditional upon allowing the military to conduct recruitment efforts on campuses.

"I want to continue to speak out, and get more truth out there about what military life is like," said Funk. "It's fun. I enjoy doing it, because I wish somebody had done that for me."

Close to \$800 was raised for Funk's defense fund at Sunday's event. Local activists will gather in Harvey Milk Plaza on September 4 to rally for Funk as he faces his charges. ▼

More information is available at www.notinourname.net/funk/



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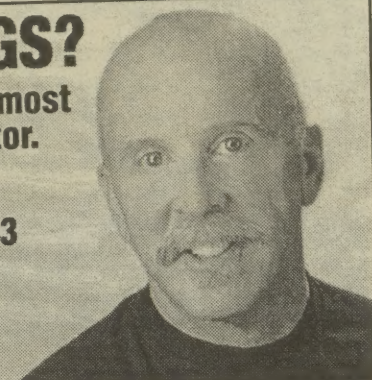
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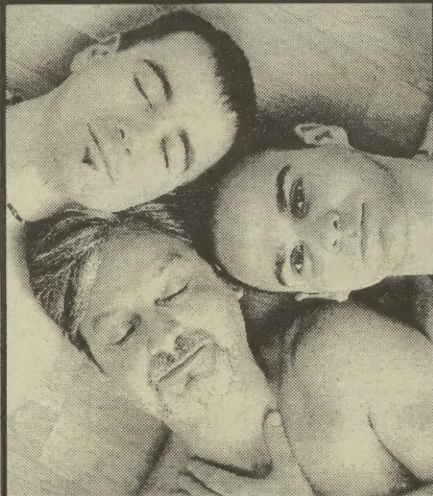
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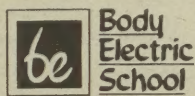
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Governor Savage?

Antigay radio host says he's weighing bid

by Ed Walsh

Fresh on the heels of his firing from MSNBC, conservative talk show host Michael Savage says he may run for governor of California as an independent.

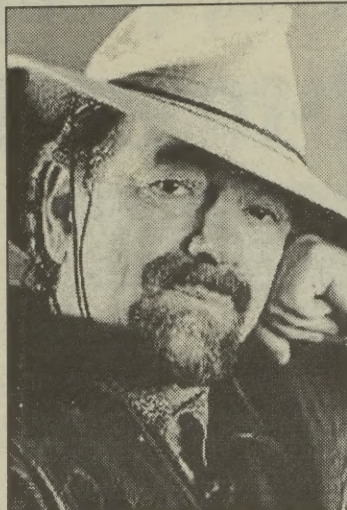
"I'm exploring an exploration committee to run for governor," Savage announced on his radio show last week.

"I believe in the Golden State, not the welfare state," the host said, adding that he thought that should be his campaign slogan.

Savage asked listeners to e-mail news Web sites to help drum up interest in his candidacy. The conservative news site World Net Daily ran an article about his potential run and took an online poll. Savage noted that he led all the candidates.

"People think it's a stunt. It's really not," Savage insisted. "I'm the only one who thought through what their campaign might contain. If any of the other candidates, whether they be [Congressman Darrell] Issa or the others, actually had a platform, I might back them."

Savage said his platform is based on borders, language, and culture. He said he would save the state up to \$15 billion by ending taxpayer subsidies for medical and educational services for "illegal aliens" and by deporting "criminal illegal immigrants." He said he



Michael Savage

could save another \$3-\$5 billion in welfare payments by hospitalizing the "mentally-ill homeless."

Savage also called for the enforcement of a "state ballot initiative declaring English the official language. If you can't speak English, then don't vote in our elections. If you're too lazy to learn how to speak, read, or write English, then don't vote in our elections. English only on all ballots. English only in all business dealings in the state of California."

A spokesman for Governor Gray Davis's antirecall campaign, Gabriel Sanchez, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Savage's possible candidacy reinforces Davis's belief about the recall.

"It's something we've been quite clear on," Sanchez explained. "This is a right-wing attempt to recall the governor's progressive agenda and replace it with the conservative agenda."

Savage also slammed openly gay California Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) for promoting a gender identity rights bill. Referring to transgenderism as a "death style," Savage called Leno "a smiling, demented fool."

"They want to cost the taxpayers between \$30 and \$60 million. And they think they can push through a conservative agenda on the cheap and on the backs of taxpayers. I'm sure once the voters are aware of this, they will be very wary of it and vote no on the recall."

"I think it just underscores our argument that this is a right-wing coup attempt. And they're looking only to pursue a socially conservative agenda," Sanchez added.

MSNBC canceled Savage's Saturday TV talk show on July 7 after he told a prank caller that he "should get AIDS and die."

The host later apologized for that remark but Savage has showed no signs of mellowing on gay issues.

On Monday, July 28, in a discussion about school districts setting up special high schools for gay youth, Savage said that any parent who sent a child to such a school would be condemning the child to a "death style" and called the schools "propaganda mills run by chicken hawks."

Savage also slammed openly gay California Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) for promoting a gender identity

rights bill. Referring to transgenderism as a "death style," Savage called Leno "a smiling, demented fool."

Reached by the B.A.R. on Tuesday, July 29, Leno declined to get in a verbal sparring match with the bombastic Savage.

"Rather than exchange derogatory barbs with this individual, I'd challenge him to come out and debate me on the civil rights issues at hand but I doubt he has the backbone to do that," Leno said.

About the idea of Savage running for governor, Leno said, "It's a sad joke equal to the sad joke of the recall itself."

On the same July 28 radio show, Savage later told a caller: "If you let the left brainwash you any further, then there are no standards for anything anymore. Gay sex is fine, just as good as straight sex, right? Wrong. Straight sex is not better than homosexual unions? If you believe that, you can believe anything. So then drugs are good for you. Gay sex is good. Whatever you want is good for you, is that what you want? There's no standards. Is that the world you want?"

This week, Savage said he believes that U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California) is waiting in the wings to announce at the last minute that she will run for governor to save the state from the Republicans. He predicted Feinstein would win if she entered.

Sanchez was quick to downplay a possible Feinstein candidacy.

"Of course, Dianne Feinstein is her own person and she has the right to any decision she wants,"

Sanchez said. "But she has been in close contact with the governor and has advised the governor on how to beat the recall. She said herself that she's not interested in it at this time and we'll take her at face value and take her at her word."

Savage's candidacy could put a serious dent into Davis's chances for surviving the recall if it galvanizes his conservative listeners to turn out to the polls to vote for Savage and for the recall. It could also help bolster the conservative-backed racial privacy initiative, which would bar the state from collecting racial data in all but a few circumstances.

Savage's nationally syndicated radio show is based in San Francisco where it began eight years ago. He is the fourth most listened to talk show host behind Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, and Howard Stern and Dr. Laura Schlessinger, who are tied for third place.

Savage's possible run for the State House is not unprecedented among his radio colleagues. Stern ran for governor of New York in 1994 as a Libertarian but he dropped out before the end of the race. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Recall means community must rally around pending legislation

by Zak Szymanski

A close vote pushed a landmark gender identity protections bill through the California state Senate on Thursday, July 24, making Assemblyman Mark Leno's AB196 the first major LGBT rights bill to go to the governor's desk.

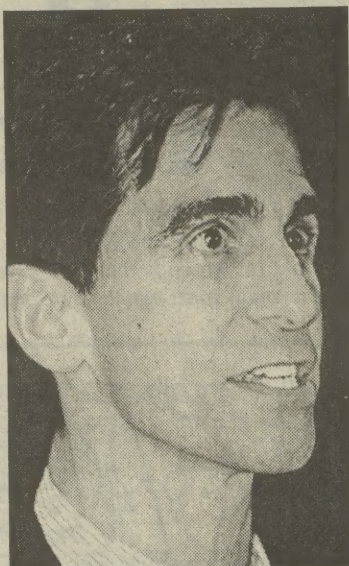
A tally of 23-11 in the Senate, and 41-34 in the Assembly (the minimum number of votes it needed to pass) got AB196 where it is today, although whether Governor Gray Davis will sign the bill is an open question, given the fact that he faces an October 7 recall election. But Leno was cautiously optimistic.

"I'm encouraged and certainly hopeful that he'll be supportive of civil rights bills that cross his desk," Leno (D-San Francisco) told the *Bay Area Reporter* on Tuesday, July 29, adding that he had not yet heard from the governor's office regarding the bill.

Davis has 12 days to sign or veto the bill once he receives it. Leno explained there is usually a three to four day transmittal period between the time a bill is approved by the Legislature and the time the governor's office actually receives it.

In the meantime, much of mainstream media has been referring to AB196 as the "transsexual bill," which may or may not affect its chances of being signed.

At press time, a media conference was scheduled by Republican lawmakers of Wednesday, July 30 to discuss "the impact of AB196 on businesses" that would be forced to hire crossdressers or transsexuals, according to a release. Although such press conferences are standard, said Geoff Kors, executive director of the statewide LGBT lobbying group Equality California, the event and the bill may receive more attention because of Davis's uncertain political future.



Assemblyman Mark Leno

"Everything that comes through now," said Kors, "will be looked at with a different focus, because of the recall."

In reality, AB196 – which codifies protections in the Fair Employment and Housing Act against discrimination on the basis of gender – simply protects people from discrimination on the basis of their real or perceived gender identity in the areas of housing and employment. This would include the protection of heterosexuals or anyone else who falls outside of the stereotypical behavior or dress expected of them.

Leno told the *B.A.R.* that for the most part, the major news outlets have improved their coverage of gender identity-related legislation.

"It's actually a step improved from a similar bill introduced in the last session, which at the time was referred to as the 'drag queen' bill," said Leno. "Overall, the press treatment has been respectful and even-handed. But to clarify, this will protect everyone who may be gender variant: women who are 'not feminine enough,' men who are 'not masculine enough,' and of

course, our brothers and sisters in the transgender community."

Gender based discrimination is already prohibited in schools and is a part of sexual harassment and hate crimes law. While Leno's bill seeks to add gender to FEHA, such discrimination cases are already being investigated as sex-related discrimination, making much of this pending legislation simply a codification of existing practices.

Meanwhile, EQCA has organized a public campaign to encourage Davis to sign the bill. Supporters need only visit www.eqca.org and click on the center link to add their names to a letter that will be sent to the state Capitol.

"We all benefit when we recognize that people should not be denied the basic human rights of a home and a job simply for being who they are," Kors said in a statement released on behalf of EQCA last week. "AB196 is a long overdue measure to protect everyone from being fired, evicted, or harassed daily because of a perceived non-conformity with gender stereotypes."

Kors also told the *B.A.R.* that while on the EQCA site, visitors should click on their support for

page 17 ►

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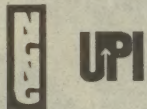
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We're not going back

Right on the heels of a new poll released this week that says there's a "backlash" against advances for the gay community, President Bush on Wednesday flip-flopped and said he has government lawyers working on a law that would define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. During a news conference, the president reversed course from statements he made shortly after the Supreme Court's historic decision in the *Lawrence v. Texas* case that overturned the remaining sodomy laws in this country, including those that applied only to same-sex couples.

We've always known Bush is against gay marriage, but only a few weeks ago he said that a proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage "might not be needed." He seemed to distance himself from rabid homophobes like Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, who spoke out in favor of such an amendment.

Soon after Bush spouted off his antigay views, he, in typical doublespeak, urged that America remain a "welcoming country" — not polarized on the issue of homosexuality. What a masterful spin job. If the country is so welcoming, Mr. President, why are you trying to deny us equal rights and why are you obsessed with the definition of marriage? If marriage is such a sacred institution, as social conservatives claim, why does Fox, the network owned by conservative Rupert Murdoch, air reality shows like *Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire?* There was no love or commitment between that couple; it was all for television ratings. Similar shows, such as *Married by America*, in our opinion, cheapen the institution of marriage far more than allowing gay and lesbian couples the right to wed if they so choose.

Once again, the president is using his pre-emptive philosophy, only this time, instead of using it to go to war against Iraq, he's using it to go to war against the gay community. Homophobes — from the Reverend Pat

Robertson, who prayed for three Supreme Court justices to resign, to talk show host Michael Savage, who just this week trashed gays (again), calling homosexuality a "death style" — are on the warpath.

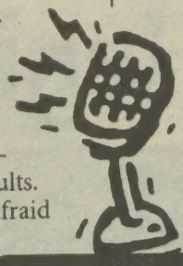
They can't stand the fact that the highest court in the nation, and one composed of mostly conservative justices, resoundingly ruled in favor of the right to privacy regarding consensual sex between adults.

What are the homophobes so afraid of when it comes to gay marriage? Why is marriage something that must be "defended"? We already have the hideous Defense of Marriage Act that Congress passed in 1996, and that President Clinton signed. A provision of that bill amends the U.S. Code to make explicit that marriage is

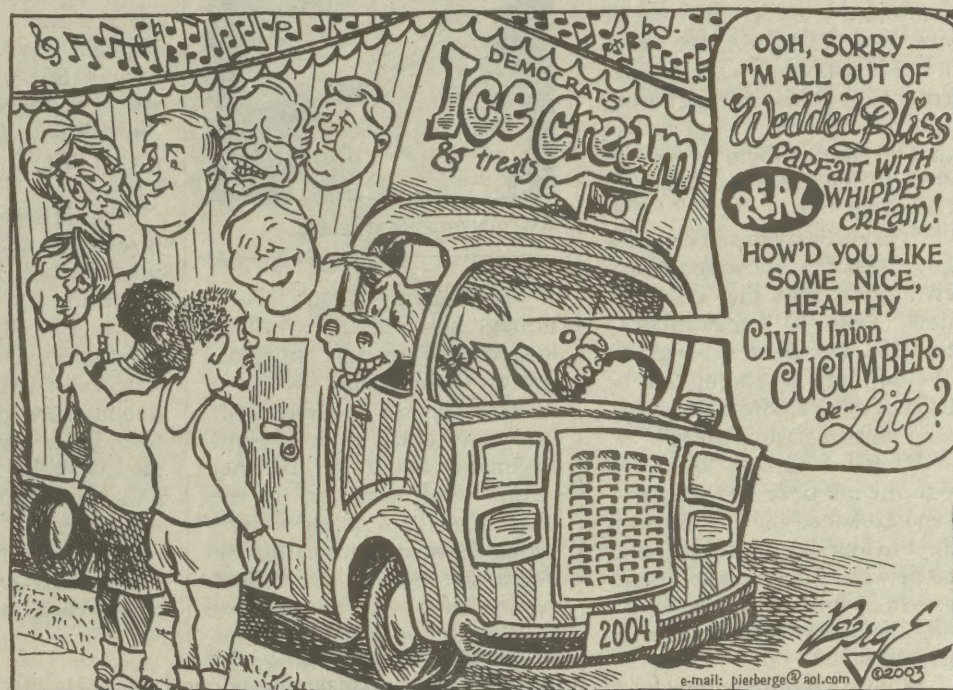
the union of a man and a woman.

During his news conference, Bush said, "I am mindful that we're all sinners and I caution those who may try to take a speck out of the neighbor's eye when they got a log in their own. I think it's important for our society to respect each individual, to welcome those with good hearts. On the other hand, that does not mean that someone like me needs to compromise on the issue of marriage."

We're not going back. And we're tired of the right's hypocrisy and intolerance. There's a presidential election next year, and if Bush keeps pushing himself to the right, it will cost him moderate voters who are tired of the government injecting itself into the bedroom. ▼



Editorial



A decade of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

by Geoffrey W. Bateman

Ten years ago this summer, President Bill Clinton announced a new policy on gays and lesbians in the military. Commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," this policy was further revised by Congress and became federal law in the fall of 1993.

Unlike previous policies, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" prohibits the military from asking recruits about their sexual orientation at induction. But similar to past policies, the military is required to discharge service members when it discovers they are lesbian or gay.

When Clinton's administration, Congress, and military leaders debated this issue during the spring and summer of 1993, very little rigorous social scientific research had been done on the question of the impact of gay and lesbian service members on the military.

Despite the lack of data on this issue, experts on all sides marshaled anecdotes and stories to support their political points of view. Yet anecdotes fail as evidence, for a few carefully selected examples can easily support arguments of any side on the debate. Supporters of the gay ban will always be able to find the cases that illustrate the difficulties of integrating gays and lesbians; similarly, it is not difficult for opponents of the ban to identify individuals who are gay or lesbian and serve in the military with few problems.

Since "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was codified into federal law, research on the question of sexuality in the military has exploded. Five years ago, the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military was formed to promote the study and research of gays and lesbians in the military, in large part to fill the vacuum that existed in 1993.

Recently, scholars at CSSMM published *Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Debating the Gay Ban in the Military*, a volume that brings together the most current and relevant research on gays and lesbians in the military. For the first time, it presents the diverse work of the leading scholars on this topic and records

their debate on the most pressing questions that frame this issue.

From this project we found that the three most pressing arguments that opponents of gays in the military raise are (1) open gays and lesbians threaten the privacy of heterosexual service members; (2) open gays and lesbians undermine unit cohesion; (3) the successful integration of openly gay and lesbian service members in foreign militaries are irrelevant to the United States.

Through thorough research and debate, CSSMM has found evidence that challenges these common assumptions.

Does "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" preserve soldiers' privacy? Research shows that the current policy does not preserve the privacy rights of heterosexuals in the military. Conservative estimates suggest there are roughly 50,000 - 60,000 gay and lesbian service members in the U.S. military, and approximately 1,200 have been discharged annually in the past few years. Thus, straight service members already interact with gay and lesbian service members in intimate spaces, like showers and barracks. The ban does little to protect privacy in this regard.

Research also shows that the lifting of gay bans in other countries has not increased the numbers of openly gay or lesbian soldiers. In every case we have studied — including Britain, Australia, Canada, and Israel — the number of gays and lesbians who come out after a ban was lifted is quite low. Lifting the ban on homosexual service members would do little to threaten the privacy of heterosexuals in the military.

Would lifting the gay ban undermine unit cohesion? In study after study, scholars have consistently found that the lifting of a gay ban has no negative impact on unit cohesion or military effectiveness. In fact, no evidence exists that shows there is any correlation between the presence of openly gay or lesbian service members and a decrease

in unit cohesion.

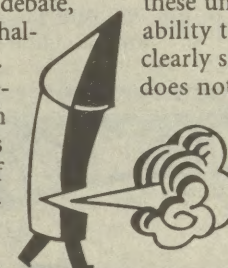
Because very few gays and lesbians come out once a ban is lifted, there is little impact on unit cohesion. In most cases, gay and lesbian service members remain discrete about their sexual orientation and do not come out. When they do reveal their orientation, they do so in units that are already tolerant of homosexuality. More importantly, though, negative attitudes toward homosexuality and the presence of open gays in these units bear little impact on the unit's ability to function successfully. Research clearly shows that dislike of homosexuals does not interfere with a unit's ability to work effectively.

Are foreign militaries relevant to the United States? Many opponents to gays in the military argue that the United States is culturally distinct from the other countries that have lifted their bans. Yet 24 other countries allow

gays and lesbians to serve in their militaries, each of which represents a distinct culture. In spite of the many differences between each of these cultures, they have all successfully integrated gays and lesbians into their militaries.

Research by CSSMM scholars and numerous other experts raises serious questions about the justifications of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." As our recent book suggests, it is hard to show that the military has based its policy on necessity, and it is disappointing to believe it remains in place because of prejudice. ▼

Geoffrey W. Bateman is the assistant director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and is co-editor of *Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Debating the Gay Ban in the Military*. More information about CSSMM and the book can be found at www.gaymilitary.ucsb.edu.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Enjoyed Up Your Alley

I volunteered at Dore Alley for the first time this year and I had an incredible experience.

In the past I have seen these things as organized forms of debauchery; excuses for our community to publicly parade its underbelly. I viewed these events with a sense of shame.

Well, shame on me. My participation as a volunteer enabled me to see Up Your Alley in a new light. With sober mind and spirit it was evident to me that the San Francisco leather community, spearheaded by Folsom Street Events, is a great benefactor in providing education, outreach, vocational support, and entertainment to our entire community.

It was amazing to see people volunteering from every corner of our community coming together South of Market to share in that spirit of giving.

I am honored that I was able to be a part of that and I hope to do it again. I feel very lucky to live in the most magical city on earth.

Patrick Parks
San Francisco

Roberta should run

Like many in our community, I will never vote for Tom Ammiano for mayor. The city needs a leader who can develop and implement rational solutions, not a whiner who has no concept of what it takes to develop real solutions. His ineffective years as president of the Board of Supervisors were an embarrassment to the city of San Francisco and to our community.

Certainly Susan Leal is a good candidate, but, in my opinion, the best candidate from our community is not running, unfortunately. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Roberta Achtenberg was a candidate?

Brian Geiger
San Francisco



Mailstrom

It wasn't ACT UP/SF

As much as we are guerrilla activists, the simple fact is that ACT UP/San Francisco is not responsible for the "HIV is a Lie" spray painted messages on the Castro streets, as Matthew Bajko alleges in his article ["Guerrilla stickerers take their message to the streets," July 17]. In fact, we are known to attach our logo and contact information to every piece of information and art we put out (e.g. the neon stickers we've been putting up for years).

While it's more soothing for the queer community to believe that the AIDS dissident movement is simply a handful of individuals in San Francisco, the undeniable fact is that, in reality, the number of dissidents is exploding. And people are getting active; hence the spray painting of the Castro.

We at ACT UP did not spray paint the message, but applaud whoever did. And we hope to see more.

Andrea Lindsay
ACT UP/San Francisco

Stickers, stickers everywhere

Within hours of the front page publication of the piece that seemingly glorified the guerrilla sticker tactics of an unnamed individual, more stickers appeared on city-owned parking meter posts and privately owned empty storefront windows.

There is a fine line between a prosaic crusade and felonious vandalism. It appears this "unwilling to be identified midnight marauder" has crossed that line by choosing to add areas other than publicly traversed sidewalks to his canvas.

Wait until he hears that District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty announced at his July 19 town hall meeting that he "likes" stickers. Now, nothing will be safe from this visual blight.

Patrick Batt
San Francisco

Cheu's defender

I feel compelled to respond to the letter from Ernest Krause, Esq. [Mailstrom, July 10], in which he criticized the LGBT Community Center and attacked former center Executive Director Brian Cheu by name. I don't know Mr. Krause, but I had the honor and good fortune to work for Brian Cheu for many years, first at LYRIC and then at the center. To those of us who know Brian as a man who has dedicated his life to the service of the LGBT community, working long hours for little recognition, Mr. Krause's implication that he is some kind of elitist who is only after a large salary is absurd. Believe me, no one who works in nonprofit is in it for the money!

Brian Cheu is one of the most humble, hard-working, and honest people I know, and his commitment to the empowerment and full inclusion of all in our community is legendary among his colleagues. The KQED award he received was just a little bit of long-overdue recognition.

I do have to wonder where Mr. Krause gets his information. Has he been to the center lately and walked around? If he has, he would surely notice the many people from all walks of life who come there to enjoy art by local LGBT artists, to learn about our history, to

gain access to information about services, to use computers for free in the cyber center, to access free child-care while engaged at the center, and, yes, to enjoy "a room with shelves of books and tables of periodicals" (it's on the third floor, Mr. Krause). Hardly a place with "nothing to offer," and hardly a place designed "to keep out the lower orders."

Anne Tamar-Mattis
Berkeley, California

Against poppers crusader

Just when we thought it was safe to go back in our bedrooms, Hank Wilson has dragged the feds back into them.

Mr. Wilson contends that poppers are a grave health risk and people need to know that and stop using them. Well, okay.

Mr. Wilson was quoted in the B.A.R. article last month saying education and information are the best tools for warning of the dangers of poppers ["Hank Wilson has a legacy of activism," June 26]. Well, apparently he doesn't consider that good enough anymore. He now has brought in the federal government (Federal Trade Commission) to get his way ["Hank Wilson files petition with FTC over poppers," July 10]. He's outraged that Internet advertising of poppers is not honest and by God, he's going to do something about it. He wants the FTC to shut these sites down.

Bad, bad poppers. Bad, bad boys. Mr. Wilson's justification seems to go something like this, "I've tried and tried to tell them. They just aren't listening to me. They keep buying them. Well, if they won't listen, I'll just have to tell the federal government and have it step in and do something about it. After all, I know what's good for them and I must put a stop to it!" (Can't you almost hear the foot stomp.)

We've had people like Jerry Falwell giving us this kind of crap for a long time and now it's people like Wilson and Carole Migden. Isn't freedom about the opportunity to make choices (good ones and maybe more importantly, bad ones)? We will either take responsibility for our actions or not, but to take any action to "protect people from themselves" is and always has been the underpinning of fascism.

I can't lose the sense that there's something more to Wilson's rant. Maybe, he thinks he will come across as a level headed, responsible homosexual when he makes his political move. Heaven help us. Unfortunately, that social work, fascist perspective worked for Ms. Migden.

Migden was centrally involved in the closure of bathhouses. Those bad, bad boys. With no evidence then or now that they promote AIDS, they got closed and have stayed closed. Isn't who and how you fuck rather than where the real point? Don't you feel comforted knowing we have people like these watching out for our well-being? If you don't, then you're not a mature, responsible adult and you need their protection.

Doesn't closing bathhouses and banning poppers seem kinda sex/homophobic? I suspect that if people engage in unsafe sex with poppers, they engage in unsafe sex without poppers. I mean, when someone inhales poppers do they suddenly lose all judgment, all control and lose it for as long as it takes to engage in intercourse and achieve ejaculation? Hey, any poppers that are that strong maybe should be banned. How much can a little ticker take? Oops, I lost all control again. Oops, I lost all control again.

There are lots of things that Mr. Wilson could do to promote his point. Since he is upset the Internet is disseminating misinformation, he could start a Web site that tells it his way. Apparently that's not good enough, he wants to force people to do what he thinks they should do.

If I want to use poppers during sex, I have that right, dammit! I don't need overweening, social working fascists telling me what to do and using the government to force me to do it. Please Mr. Wilson, disregard your narcissistic, social working grandiosity and just fucking stop it!

Richard Gipson
San Francisco

20 years of Ward 5A

It is hard to believe that it has been 20 years, but it has. San Francisco General Hospital's Ward 5A has awakened the nation and the world about caring and never giving up on AIDS. Dr. Don Abrams and all the staff continue to work hard for the light at the end of the tunnel. Our community can, and should, feel blessed and grateful.

Marvin-Michel LeGrier II, Esq.
San Francisco

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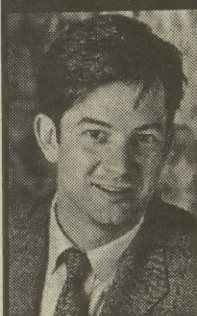
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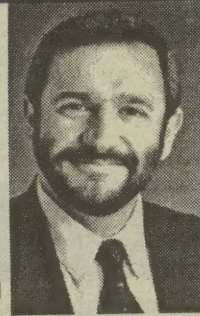
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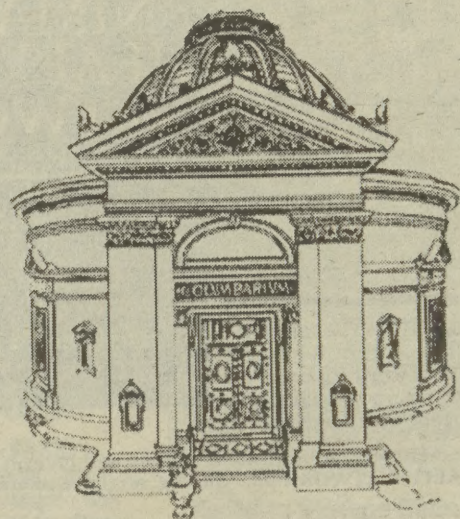
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Unveiling drawbacks of marriage activism

by Paula Martinac

All the recent renewed attention on same-sex marriage makes me nervous. U.S. gay couples can now marry legally in Canada, and many are traveling there to tie the knot, as the Reverend Troy Perry of the Metropolitan Community Church has encouraged us all to do. They may then come home and start checking off "married" instead of "single" on official forms and applications, or even filing their taxes jointly. Alternately, they might try to test the waters of the ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas*, which extended privacy rights to gay couples, and file lawsuits when their applications for marriage licenses are denied.

But are such actions wise? Some well-intentioned but perhaps not clearly thought-out measures by lesbian and gay couples – taken on their own, without the counsel of major gay organizations – could backfire, hurting them and setting the same-sex marriage movement back several steps. If that happens, however, it won't be entirely the fault of those couples, who are yearning to have their primary relationships acknowledged. Gay organizations will also be to blame, since they are well aware of the pitfalls couples face in undertaking marriage activism and haven't stressed the drawbacks strongly enough.

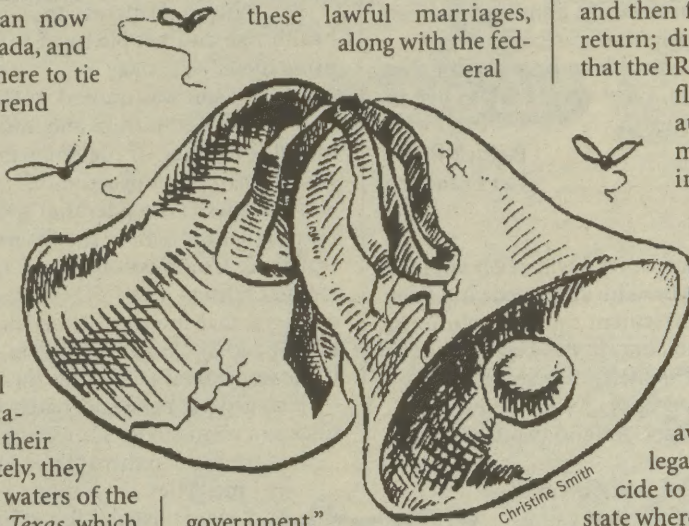
Consider that, in the wake of Ontario's historic ruling on same-sex marriage, five of the major U.S. gay groups working for marriage rights posted a document online called "Thinking of Getting Married in Canada?" The advisory asserted that "when couples who marry in Canada come home ... they will be as married as any people on the planet." The document then listed all the different ways they could identify as such – "on applications/forms for jobs,

apartments, credit, mortgages, insurance, medical treatment, and taxes." But the warnings to couples were pretty mild: "Some but not all businesses, states, and others will refuse to honor these lawful marriages, along with the federal

ment won't recognize marriages that aren't between a man and a woman. Reporter Laura Conaway of the *Village Voice* investigated what might happen to a same-sex couple who marries in Canada and then files a joint federal tax return; disturbingly, she found that the IRS would very likely red-flag their 1040 for an audit, and that penalties might include fines and imprisonment. Add to that the 37 states with their own mini-DOMAs, which could place couples in hot water for their local taxes, too. Of course, some U.S. couples might be aware of the potential legal problems and still decide to wed in Canada (or in a state where gay marriage becomes legal). If they're doing so for their own emotional needs, that's completely understandable; the desire to marry is deeply rooted in many of us, and there have been a number of moving stories about gay couples who embarked on Vermont civil unions or Canadian marriages for purely symbolic reasons.

However, I hope most of these couples won't rush to try to have their marriages legally recognized at home. Decisions about which lawsuits would make the best test cases for gay marriage are better left to the activists who work daily for our rights, and who are able to view same-sex marriage as part of a bigger picture, not just as individual couples here and there. Gay couples considering lawsuits would do well to think less about self-interest and more about the good of the whole community. Remember that Rosa Parks wasn't just a tired black woman who spontaneously decided not to give up her seat on the bus to a white man – she was working in tandem with the NAACP, and was a trained, longtime activist for civil rights. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books and editor in chief of *Q* Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at PMcolumn@aol.com.



government."

At the very end, in a spot easily overlooked, the missive suggested contacting a gay organization before undertaking a lawsuit.

Let's be more specific about the possible ramifications for same-sex couples. Without an Employment Non-Discrimination Act, is it wise to suggest that gay people can be open at work or with potential employers about their same-sex spouses? Not all of us have jobs where we feel so comfortable – which is the reason we need ENDA.

When I was writing a book on same-sex marriage several years ago, I interviewed a lesbian who had been slapped with a sexual harassment suit by a co-worker simply for having a photo of her lover on her desk.

More questions: If a couple united in Canada comes home to a state or city without a gay rights law, what will they face when they look for an apartment as a married couple? Or if one of them needs emergency medical treatment, will a Canadian marriage really stop clueless hospital staff in the United States from discriminating against them with regard to visitation rights?

Then there's the sticky matter of taxes. Under the Defense of Marriage Act, the U.S. govern-

Lesbian Notions

Record set with Pride money



San Francisco Pride President Joey Cain, left, was joined by grand marshal Marina Gatto, second from left, as the Pride Committee distributed a record \$156,209.17 to more than 50 community organizations. Above, some of the recipients, including Susan Stryker, executive director of the GLBT Historical Society, center, were on hand Monday, July 28 for the ceremony at the LGBT Community Center. Pride officials noted the dollar amount is up 20 percent over last year's record, despite increased fees the committee had to pay the city for this year's parade and festival.

POLITICS

Is it time for Gov. Gray Davis to step aside?

by Wayne Friday

Let's call the upcoming recall election on Governor **Gray Davis** for what it truly is — an unfair, unethical, politically motivated grab for power engineered by the California Republican Party to overturn an election held only months ago.

This recall election is awash in the dirty politics of the entire Republican power establishment — from the White House right down to the courthouse. Of course, the official party spin from Washington is that the Bush White House is "having no part of this effort," claiming that this "is entirely a matter for California voters" and the like, but make no mistake, this Florida-type, money-driven, high-profile recall election was motivated and put together by Republicans, for Republicans, and with the total blessings, however subtly, of **George W. Bush**, **Karl Rove**, and the national Republican Party. As **Terry McAuliffe**, chair of the national Democratic Party, said this week: "They did it to us in Florida, they tried to do it to us in Texas, and in California, where we recently had a gubernatorial election, a partisan, right-wing Republican puts up millions in an attempt to undo last November's election."

McAuliffe is, of course, absolutely correct: this is indeed an unfair, Republican-bought special election. Think about how easily this came about. Congressman **Darrell Issa** (R-Vista) puts up \$1.7 million of his own money and with little effort the Republicans came up with 1.7 million signatures for the recall. A buck a signature is all the GOP had to come up with to force this election on us. Pretty simple, huh?

Having said all that, however, the October 7 recall election is also a reality. Therefore, the question comes to mind whether Davis should boldly step aside and give up his office for the good of the party, and even more so, for the good of the people of California. To be clear, I'm definitely voting no on the recall regardless of whose names appear on the ballot.

However, the question now becomes this: should Davis, whose approval rating with the California electorate is hovering at an unbelievable 20-something percent, take the courageous route and graciously step aside, and allow another Democrat, perhaps Senator **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California), to keep the governor's office safe for both the Democratic Party and those majority of voters who voted to keep the Democrats in power last November? This newspaper voiced such an opinion in a June editorial, when it said Davis should consider resigning if the recall qualifies.

Frankly, I feel that the governor's approval ratings are so incredibly low that he is clearly on course for an almost certain removal by the voters. I don't believe the governor can survive the upcoming recall election. Voters in California are so agitated at the

do-nothing state Legislature, the growing tax rate, and the upcoming increase in vehicle registration fees, that they would likely vote against any sitting governor. Add to that the fact that nearly a third of those who signed the recall petitions were reportedly registered Democrats, and I can't see the guy surviving. Most of these people aren't even going to be thinking of who replaces him, they will merely vote yes on the recall question, disregarding the consequences (the first part of the ballot asks the question: "Should Governor Gray Davis be recalled?" The second part lists the possible replacements).

We'll have no idea what the hell the ballot will look like until 5 p.m. on August 9, the filing date deadline. However, if the Democratic Party continues to stand squarely behind Davis it would be a noble and loyal — but dangerous — tactic, and would all but guarantee that a right-wing nut would take over the governor's office in the nation's most important and populous state.

Standing alone behind Davis might work for the Democrats if the alternative was limited to Issa, state Senator **Tom McClintock** (R-Thousand Oaks), or failed gubernatorial candidate **Bill Simon** — right-wingers all. But with reports Monday indicating that actor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** will not run, former Los Angeles Mayor **Richard Riordan** could enter the race and we could well end up with a Republican governor of the most Democratic state in America. Indeed, it is not unreasonable to fear that with enough Republicans in the contest, some jerk like Issa could become governor with as little as 15 percent of the vote. We can't let it happen — the Democratic Party cannot take the chance.

It won't be an easy call for Davis. He's damned if a Democrat like Feinstein, Attorney General **Bill Lockyer**, or Lieutenant Governor **Cruz Bustamante** enters the race, but he's equally damned if they don't and Republicans walk away with the governor's chair.

Davis needs to do the noble thing and step aside and allow Feinstein or some other qualified Democrat to take over. Rather than gamble and even take the chance on a very unpopular incumbent governor, the movers and shakers of the Democratic Party — those party titans like **Walter Shorenstein**, who helps fund the party, and others like state party chair **Art Torres** — must call on the governor to do the right thing and resign.

The question remains: could his sudden resignation then cancel the recall election? No, the law apparently precludes that from happening. But, a court might then simply say "you wanted to get rid of Davis, he's now gone, so there's no need for an election." Possible, but not all that likely. However, if a court were to rule (as is more likely than not) that an election must take place anyway, Bustamante would become acting governor until the October 7 election, and the Democratic Party

could put forth a powerful argument for a no vote on the recall because Davis would already be gone. Clearly, that move would be an easier task than to try to save Davis, whose popularity is so low at this time that he probably does not have the time before the election to resurrect himself. One way or another, it now appears that California will have a new governor soon, and God only help us if it becomes Issa, Simon, or some other antigay, right-winger.

Politics and people

Recall aside, there is also an election under way in San Francisco to elect a mayor, a district attorney, and a sheriff, but with all this crap out of Sacramento, did you remember? Those who are supposed to know these things tell me that the race for mayor is still **Gavin Newsom's** to lose — he's apparently leading his nearest opponent by around 20 percentage points, but this one is headed for a December runoff. So, it looks like Newsom against either **Angela Alioto** or **Tom Ammiano** in the mayor's race to replace Mayor **Willie Brown**.

The contest for district attorney is getting a bit nasty; **Terence Hallinan** is desperately trying to hold on for a third term against two much better candidates: **Kamala Harris** or **Bill Fazio**. I gotta tell you I know all three pretty well and am not bashful about this one — Harris is my choice (Hallinan's got to go; that's a no-brainer). Fazio is also a qualified candidate and would be a much better district attorney than the hapless Hallinan.

And to those who ask who my candidate for mayor is, I can honestly say I haven't decided; I'll tell you right after the August filing date. I'd love to see San Francisco elect its first openly gay or lesbian mayor (**Susan Leal** or **Tom Ammiano**), but from the beginning it's been the ever-growing homeless problem for me, and I'm still waiting for Ammiano or Leal's program on the issue that won't go away. Angela Alioto? A wonderful, compassionate woman with a heart the size of Montana, but I gotta tell you folks, I think San Francisco needs a **Rudy Giuliani** type as its next mayor, not a Mother Teresa. Stay tuned on the mayor's race. Sheriff **Mike Hennessey** looks like he will be unopposed. Damn, he should be running for mayor.

Incidentally, I'm told another solid replacement for District 7 Supe **Tony "the Tiger" Hall** is emerging in the person of **Patrick Lakely**, a candidate who reportedly has lots of labor support.

Is gay marriage truly on its way? Opposition to gay marriage has dropped significantly among Americans according to a recent poll by the Pew Research Center. In the most recent poll, 53 percent of respondents said they still oppose gay marriage, while 48 percent say they support them. In 1996, 65 percent said they opposed gay marriages, while 27 percent said they favored them. In the United States, gay marriages still lack full legal recognition in all 50 states, but recent court rulings in Canada have declared the government's definition of marriage as unconstitutional because it specified it as the union strictly of a

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Who was Paul Goodman?

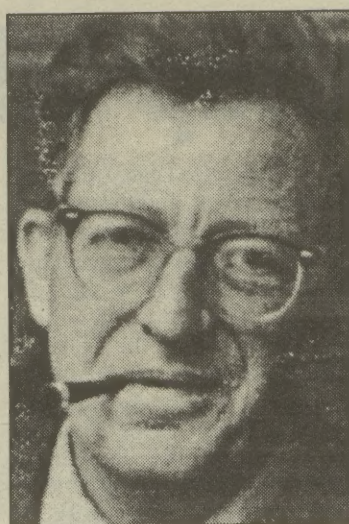
by Liz Highleyman

August 2, 1972 (31 years ago this week): Social critic Paul Goodman dies of a heart attack.

Paul Goodman, dubbed the “Father of the New Left,” was a radical poet and theorist known for his blistering critiques of social institutions and his pioneering work in Gestalt psychology. An outspoken anarchist, pacifist, and bisexual, Goodman maintained his commitment to individual freedom even when his beliefs jeopardized his reputation and his career.

Goodman was born into a poor Jewish family in New York City in 1911. His father abandoned the family soon after Paul’s birth, and he was raised by his bohemian mother, aunts, and older sister. Free to explore the city’s streets, museums, and libraries as a boy, Goodman would later advocate self-learning and denounce the formal education system – although he sneaked into classes at Columbia and Harvard.

A Columbia professor invited him to teach at the University of Chicago while he earned his doctorate in literature, but Goodman was fired for having an affair with a male student. He was later dismissed from two other teaching jobs for the same reason. Although he maintained an outwardly traditional family life – with two successive wives and three children – he made little attempt to hide his sexual liaisons



Paul Goodman

with men, who were often many years his junior (though not always his students). “I have been fired three times because of my queer behavior or my claim to the right of it,” Goodman once wrote.

Despite his lack of formal training in psychology, Goodman and psychoanalyst Fritz Perls developed a new model of humanistic psychotherapy known as Gestalt. Goodman believed that a repressive society, rather than an individual’s failure to conform, was responsible for psychiatric problems, and he saw therapy as a tool for social revolution. He also shared radical psychologist Wilhelm Reich’s view that institutions such as the family and formal schooling are designed to repress people’s natural desires, making them passive and better suited for their role as workers.

Goodman wrote numerous poems, short stories, and novels, many with homoerotic and mythological themes. Although popular within avant-garde circles, his early work was far from lucrative, and he spent much of his life taking on odd jobs to pay the bills. By the late 1950s he had largely abandoned fiction and devoted himself to social criticism.

His best-known work, *Growing Up Absurd* (1960), finally brought him widespread acclaim and some financial security. Appearing at the dawn of a countercultural revolution against the conservatism of the 1950s, his message – that American social institutions were geared toward instilling social, sexual, and political conformity – made Goodman an icon among disaffected students and youth.

Unfairly labeled an ivory-tower utopian by his critics, Goodman was a pragmatic problem-solver and an activist as well as a theorist. An advocate of community-based urban planning, he called for banning cars from Manhattan. In 1967 he famously lambasted attendees at a symposium of the National Security Industrial Association (a military industry trade organization), calling them “the most dangerous body of men at present in the world” and urging

them to rapidly phase themselves out. Gay Gestalt therapist Patrick Kelley recalls encountering him among the crowd gathered outside the Stonewall Inn in June 1969, where Goodman proclaimed, “This is where tonight’s revolution is taking place.”

Along with education, Goodman expounded on themes of alienation, community, and sexuality. He opposed censorship of pornography, believed monogamy was oppressive, and advocated sexual freedom for children and adolescents. Goodman also challenged the boundaries between public and private, consistently linking his political and psychological theories with his personal experiences. In “The Politics of Being Queer,” an essay written near the end of his life, he addressed both societal homophobia and his own bisexuality.

Often abrasive and always uncompromising, Goodman came to deplore the mysticism, excessive drug use, and reactionary violence of the counterculture. By the end of the 1960s his followers had largely moved on to new political gurus, and he felt a growing sense of disillusionment: “Frankly, my experience of radical community is that it does not tolerate my freedom.” Goodman’s son Mathew died in a mountain-climbing accident in 1967, and friends said he never recovered from his grief. He died of a heart attack in August 1972.

Although Goodman himself fell out of favor, his ideas have had a pervasive influence. Today’s global justice activists embrace Goodman’s vision of ecological balance and direct democracy, while right-wing psychiatrist and reparative therapy advocate Charles Socarides credits him as one of “a few intellectuals [who] laid down the ideological underpinnings for the entire tie-dyed, try-anything-sexual Woodstock generation.” ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@black-rose.com.

Suggested reading

Goodman, Paul. 1960. *Growing Up Absurd: Problems of Youth in the Organized System* (Random House).

_____. (Edited by Taylor Stoehr). 1977. *Nature Heals: The Psychological Essays of Paul Goodman and Drawing the Line: The Political Essays of Paul Goodman* (Free Life Editions).

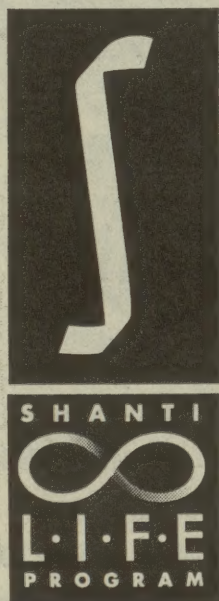
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Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

man and a woman, paving the way for gays to obtain legal marriages.

In Sacramento they are still buzzing over some of those Assembly Democrats, who, unaware that an open microphone was broadcasting their closed-door caucus, heard out lesbian Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles) suggest that the current California budget crisis could possibly make it easier for Democrats to raise taxes, prompting

Republicans to claim that the Democratic members were politicizing the state’s current fiscal crisis. Some of those who know Goldberg, who formerly served on the Los Angeles City Council, will privately tell you that she’s not exactly the most popular member of the Legislature (nor the brightest, apparently).

Secretary of State Kevin Shelley showed he’s ready for the political big time when he deftly handled his live televised press conference (covered by the national media) announcing last

page 14 ▶

COMMUNITY NEWS

Art of persuasion

by Jane Warner

The Cafe, 2367 Market Street, July 28, 11:47 p.m.: Police were called to The Cafe by the bar's security staff after they detained a man for exposing himself to a woman. When officers arrived they met with the victim who reported that the suspect approached her at the bar and started a conversation. When she realized he was hitting on her, she told him she wasn't interested and informed him he was in a gay bar. She then walked away to use the restroom. When she came out of the stall, however, the man was standing directly in front of her with his pants around his knees, holding his penis in his hand. The man asked the woman in Spanish, "Do you want it?" and then repeatedly stuck his tongue in and out of his mouth. The woman pushed past him and told the bartender, who alerted security, who found the man at the foot of the stairs and detained him without incident. The 24-year-old suspect was taken



Crime & Punishment

to Mission Station and booked for indecent exposure.

Fit for a queen

LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, July 28, 6:25 p.m.: A man who was using the cyber center became upset after he perceived the computer instructor to have an "attitude." Angry, the man tore down all the notices on the hallway bulletin board and screamed that the instructor was an "ass-hole." The building's security director soon arrived and asked the man to leave as he escorted him to the main lobby. As the suspect left the building, he pushed the security director in the chest and threatened, "I'll sue you," then picked up a potted plant and threw it at the glass doors. The ceramic pot shattered on impact and scattered dirt all over the lobby floor. The suspect then kicked the glass windows repeatedly and screamed more profanities. As security called 911, the suspect—described as African American, nicely dressed, in his early 20s—fled on foot and was last seen running northbound on Octavia. Nobody

was seriously injured and nothing was seriously damaged.

Leaving his mark

700 block of Dolores, July 20, 1:55 a.m.: A woman called police and reported that her friend's ex-boyfriend had tried to run her over. When officers arrived, the suspect was gone. The woman told officers she was letting her friend stay with her because she was in the process of going through a messy breakup. As the two women watched from the window, they saw the ex-beau drive by the house several times. The friend's Toyota Four-Runner was parked across the street and the women grew concerned because the suspect had a set of keys to the vehicle. The woman decided to move her friend's SUV closer to the house. When she got into the vehicle, however, she noticed the suspect pull up behind her in his silver Acura. The woman opened the door of the Four-Runner, leaned out, and yelled, "What's up?" Without answering, the suspect revved the engine in his sedan and intentionally drove toward the woman, ramming his car into the open door. The woman managed to duck back into the SUV without getting hurt and the suspect drove off, southbound on Dolores. Responding officers went to the suspect's house in Daly City and found the damaged Acura parked in the driveway, but the ex was not home. The Acura, however, was towed as evidence and a warrant was issued for the suspect's arrest. ▼

No bail for alleged Gwen Araujo murderer

by Zak Szymanski

Michael Magidson, a 23-year-old suspect charged with the Newark killing of transgender teenager Gwen Araujo, was again denied bail last week for his alleged role in Araujo's murder.

On July 24, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Kenneth Mark Burr said that testimony from accomplice-turned-witness Jaron Nabors, which identified Magidson as a ringleader in last year's homicide, was enough to convince him that Magidson could be a flight risk and a danger to others.

"It would be very easy for him to walk away," said Burr, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "and anybody who was standing in his way could be in danger."

Magidson was originally allowed to post \$1.68 million in bail, but that was revoked after a preliminary hearing at which Nabors testified that Magidson was the primary culprit in Araujo's murder. Last week's hearing was the result of Magidson's attorney challenging that bail reversal.

During the preliminary hearing held earlier this year, prosecutor Connie Campbell said that Magidson was the main aggressor in Araujo's killing and that he had a sexual relationship with the 17-year-old transgender teenager. Araujo was biologically male but lived as a woman.

Araujo was killed on October 4, 2002. According to evidence Campbell presented at earlier hearings, on that night, Magidson and three others decided to find out Araujo's gender, and when they discovered she was biologically male, they beat her, strangled her to death, and drove her body to a remote campground in the Sierra where they hastily buried it in a rocky grave.

Nabors, who was originally charged in the killing, led police to Araujo's body last October and later struck a deal in exchange for his testimony. Other suspects include Magidson, Jason Cazares, and Jose Merel. All have pleaded not guilty. ▼

Dufty to hold Halloween planning meeting Monday

by Cynthia Laird

In an effort to ensure this year's Halloween celebration in the Castro is safe and enjoyable for partygoers, District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty will convene a planning session this Monday, August 4 in City Hall.

The meeting is open to the public. Dufty described the meeting, which is the second he's held on the issue, as a "nuts and bolts" session. Participants will include community groups, representatives from city departments, and other stakeholders committed to making Halloween in the Castro a fun, safe, and successful event.

Last year's Halloween gather-

ing, which was unsanctioned by the city, was marred by bursts of violence that included stabbings. The event draws hundreds of thousands of people to the Castro annually. When Dufty ran for office last year, he made planning for Halloween a top priority.

Additionally, representatives of the newly established San Francisco Entertainment Commission will attend the meeting to discuss the stage entertainment.

Dufty said the meeting will provide an opportunity for people to discuss what remains to be accomplished and whether there are any unidentified concerns that need to be addressed.

The meeting starts at 6 p.m. in conference room 201. ▼

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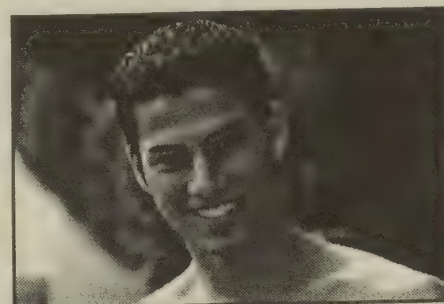
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SF minority HIV prevention groups fearful of new CDC rules

by Matthew S. Bajko

As the federal government moves to enact new rules for HIV prevention, some AIDS agencies in San Francisco fear it will mean the end to many of their programs.

Under the new guidelines, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention intends to shift funding away from programs aimed at people who are HIV-negative toward ones focused solely on people who are HIV-positive.

Called the Advancing HIV Prevention Initiative, the new priorities for funding will be making voluntary HIV testing a routine part of medical care, diagnosing HIV outside medical settings, testing mothers of newborns for HIV,

and working with people who are HIV-positive and their partners.

CDC officials contend these new priorities are the best way to prevent HIV from spreading. But many AIDS agencies, particularly those who work with people of color, call the new approach misguided and shortsighted. Instead of moving funds from one group to the other, prevention groups argue both sets of people should be targeted.

"[This initiative] is not comprehensive and ignores the needs of at-risk individuals who are not HIV-positive including gay men of color, young men who have sex with men, and injecting drug-users," said Carlos Velazquez, director for HIV programs for LLEGO, the national Latina/o LGBT organization. "CDC's planned shift in program and

funding priorities will have an adverse impact on the prevention infrastructure developed and supported through the directly-funded minority and other community-based organizations program and the capacity building assistance program."

Speaking at a forum sponsored

ta, and Texas have all felt the impact of budget shortfalls and often the first agencies to be eliminated or to receive budget cuts are minority-based organizations."

Others warn that testing is not the only answer to combating rising rates of HIV as well as sexually transmitted diseases. Along

are HIV-positive. David Evans, program manager of the Stop AIDS Project, said many gay men are reluctant to get tested for HIV because there is still a lot of stigma attached to being positive.

"Many gay men say 'I'd rather die than find out I am HIV-positive.' This initiative says if we find out those who are positive and they get tested it will stop this epidemic. I think not," said Evans.

Andre Robertson, director of prevention at the Black Coalition on AIDS, warned that if these new initiatives are enacted, then his agency's Man2Man program will no longer be funded.

"One third of our budget comes from the CDC. That is two to three months work we can't do anymore," said Robertson, who added that pushing for more HIV testing "is a bad strategy that doesn't work so why try to do more of a bad strategy?"

Velazquez said one of his biggest complaints with the new guidelines is they do not consider cultural differences or language barriers faced by agencies that work with people of color.

"A lot of young MSM aren't

next page ►

"As prevention education efforts that have been shown to reduce HIV infection are reduced, HIV infections are likely to increase."

by AGUILAS held on July 21 at the LGBT Community Center, Velazquez warned that the new initiatives being pushed by the CDC will cripple the budgets of many minority organizations across the country.

"Minority community-based organizations will lose federal funds for primary HIV prevention activities for uninfected high-risk populations and will have limited access to local and state funding in an era of budgetary shortfalls," he warned. "States like California, Massachusetts, Oregon, Minneso-

with testing, they argue, behavioral interventions are needed, particularly with those who are HIV-negative and at high-risk for contracting venereal diseases.

"As prevention education efforts that have been shown to reduce HIV infection are reduced, HIV infections are likely to increase, especially among peoples of color," warned Eduardo Morales, executive director of AGUILAS.

Others attacked the rationale behind focusing on people who

HIV and AIDS cases continue to climb in U.S.

by Matthew S. Bajko

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, America is waging a losing battle against AIDS. New HIV rates climbed more than 7

percent among gay and bisexual men in 2002, marking the third year in a row rates of HIV transmission have risen.

Based on preliminary data from several states, the CDC also announced this week that there was a slight increase in AIDS incidence last year, although AIDS deaths continued to decline. Preliminary data show a 2.2 percent increase in new AIDS diagnoses, or 42,136 diagnoses, and a 5.9 percent decline in deaths, or 16,371 deaths.

Dr. Harold Jaffe, director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, presented the data at the 2003 National HIV Prevention conference in Atlanta on Monday, July 28.

"These findings add to the growing concern that we are facing a potential resurgence of HIV among gay and bisexual men," he said.

Based on data from 25 states with long-standing HIV reporting, the number of new HIV diagnoses among gay and bisexual men increased by 7.1 percent from 2001 to 2002, supporting recent findings that men who have sex with men remain at high, and perhaps, increasing risk for HIV infection. The numbers most likely are even higher since the data does not include California, New York, or Texas, the states with the largest numbers of HIV infections.

Since 1999, HIV diagnoses among this population group have increased by 17.7 percent. The data also show that HIV diagnoses in other vulnerable groups have remained stable since 2001.

Jaffe cautioned though that the new data reflect the number

of people newly diagnosed, regardless of when they were infected, and increases may reflect increases in HIV testing as well as potential increases in new infections.

The CDC said the findings suggest a continuing plateau in the dramatic progress against AIDS following the introduction of highly active antiretroviral treatment, or HAART, in the mid-1990s.

The lack of continued progress in reducing AIDS diagnoses is likely due to several factors, Jaffe said, including treatment failure, difficulty adhering to complex regimens, and late HIV diagnoses delaying initiation of treatment.

"The AIDS epidemic in the United States is far from over," said Jaffe. "While effective treatments are crucial in our fight against HIV, preventing infection in the first place is still the only true protection against the serious and fatal consequences of this disease."

Jaffe defended the CDC's new Advancing HIV Prevention Initiative, saying it would help to address the continuing challenge of combating AIDS. The initiative calls for focusing on HIV testing as a routine part of care, greater access to HIV testing, increased attention to prevention among people living with HIV, and reduced mother-to-child transmission.

AIDS advocates and HIV prevention officials have assailed the initiative as misguided and potentially disastrous. They argue that while they agree with the initiative's approaches, programs directed at HIV-negative people must also be funded and given priority by the CDC. ▼

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NATIONAL NEWS

Community reps strike back at CDC during prevention confab

by Bob Roehr

Community representatives struck a defiant tone in their opening remarks at the 2003 National HIV Prevention Conference, July 27-30, that drew more than 3,000 to Atlanta. They expressed outrage at recently announced CDC prevention initiatives that they claim are turning away from behavioral and community-based interventions and to a medical model to reduce the spread of HIV. This has significant implications for federal funding of local organizations.

In a premonition of what was to come, conference co-chair Ronald Valdiserri said, "Our differences and how we work through them, have been the source of our strength" in the fight against AIDS. He also is deputy director of the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

"By working together, it is estimated that we have saved up to 1.5 million lives in the United States through HIV prevention programs," said Ed Tepporn, program coordinator of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum.

"Yet despite these successes, we as a community are being asked to shift our focus in our HIV prevention efforts ... away from universal precautions and shared responsibility for the prevention of HIV" to a focus on those already infected with the virus. "With these two shifts we are putting our already vulnerable communities at even more risk for HIV." The community activists and service providers in the room exploded with applause.

"Organizations in our community may no longer be able to carry out their important work," Tepporn continued, expressing the fears of many. "They will be forced to close down, leaving our communities who are already underserved even more so."

"We are being asked to make HIV testing part of medical care. Well, that's a load of bull, when 42 million people do not have access to medical care. And people of



Ronald Valdiserri

color are among those most impacted by HIV."

Tepporn called the focus on testing "shortsighted," and said it will only increase the stigma around HIV. Prevention of new infections "is a shared responsibility, whether we are HIV-negative or -positive." Programs for positives must be created "without abandoning those who are negative."

"The direction we are being asked to take is not based on science or public health principles. We are being forced into narrow boxes at a time when our prevention should be multifaceted and based upon partnership," said Tepporn.

In closing, Tepporn said, "HIV is much more than a sexually transmitted disease, it is also a struggle." He called for a commitment of family, "which means, nobody gets left behind."

The Reverend Edwin Sanders spoke next. "We welcome you here just as you are," said the member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. He noted that many of those in the audience - the poor, sex workers, gays, and drug users - have been and perhaps still are among the disenfranchised of our society. "You don't have to pretend ... you can be just who you are." The room erupted in applause.

"This has to be a place where we raise the tough questions," Sanders said. The cadence of the pulpit and the spirit of the civil rights movement shaped his critique.

tion is not increasing funding for AIDS care. Already the state AIDS Drug Assistance Programs are struggling to meet demand, and Tierney said if more people are aware they are HIV-positive it will further hamper these programs.

"There is nothing in this about increasing care dollars. There is no money for ADAP," he said. "There is no national leadership coming out of Washington to cap those drug costs and increase funding for ADAP."

Along with concerted efforts by HIV prevention groups to lobby against the proposed changes, the more than 50 people at the forum also called for the community at large to contact government leaders in Washington to express their concerns about the new initiatives.

"An outpouring of letters in this case really makes a difference," said Tierney. ▼

"We have good reason to be suspect when people start using words like 'traditional public health messages.' When people start talking about traditions and doing things the way they have been done, well, that is part of what got us where we are. ... It is not an either/or."

Sanders defended "the kinds of behavioral approaches which we know have reduced the spread of HIV." He celebrated the experience of those in the audience, saying that one needs not only a mental sense of AIDS but also the "scents" of AIDS that comes only from the often dirty and anguished faces of those suffering from the disease.

"Partnership suggests that there is equality," he said, referring to recent CDC initiatives that had been adopted without consultation with the community.

Sanders closed with a story of a young child who always seemed to be questioning, but learned from her grandmother to say at the end, despite the questions, "...and, I'll go on, anyhow."

"When all is said and done," he continued, "We are the ones that have to answer the question with 'I'll go on, anyhow.' It became the mantra of the participants. ▼

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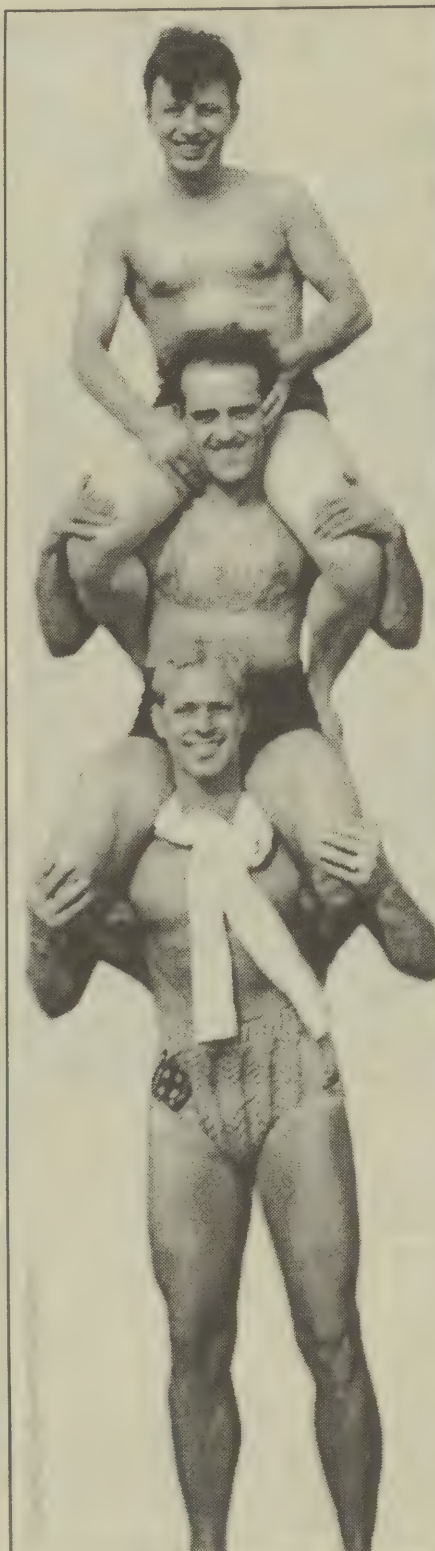
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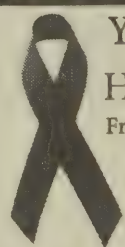
about to disclose their status. They are uncomfortable as Latinos disclosing their status," he said.

Steven Tierney, the city's director of HIV prevention, went even further in attacking the new initiatives. Not only are they bad public health policy, he said, but they are purely a political attack by right-wing political groups.

"What we ought to be doing tonight, given the rates of infection in African American and Latino communities, is we should be having a discussion about public health. But that is not the case," he said. "This is political and it is coming from the conservatives."

Tierney also suggested the new initiatives have the potential for creating a medical crisis across the country since the Bush administra-

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Summer institute delves into sexuality

by Matthew S. Bajko

A San Francisco State University institute this summer has students from around the world examining issues on sexuality, race, and health.

The only program of its kind in the United States, it has drawn leading researchers, health care providers, community organizers and students from around the world to the San Francisco campus for an intense three-week examination of a topic deemed taboo in most parts of the world.

Students from Vietnam, Peru, Spain, Great Britain, and the United States have been discussing sexual theory, female sexuality, globalization, and sexual change and the impact of social inequality on sexual health in individuals and communities. Sponsored by the university's Human Sexuality Studies Program and the National Sexuality Resource Center, the institute has featured top researchers in the various topics who have been invited to lecture on their fields of study.

"This state-of-the-art intensive training in sexuality and social research aims to connect academics and advocates on the most urgent issues of our times," said Gilbert Herdt, director and professor at the SFSU Human Sexuality Studies Program and a co-founder of the resource center. "The summer



Professor Richard Parker

institute provides an opportunity for an international dialogue on sexuality that is critically needed in today's world."

This past week the program has focused on the impact of globalization on sexual health in local communities and how social inequality, health and disease are interrelated. Richard Parker, a professor of medical anthropology and sexuality in the Institute of Social Medicine at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, and an associate professor and chair of the Department of Sociomedical Sciences in the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, led the globalization discussion.

Parker, whose research has focused on the social and cultural construction of gender and sexuality, the social aspects of HIV/AIDS, and the relationship between social inequality, health and disease, has conducted long-term research in Brazil since the early 1980s, and has worked on comparative studies carried out in Asia, Africa, North America and other parts of Latin America and the Caribbean.

For the past 10 years, working as the director of ABIA, the Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association and one of the largest non-govern-

mental AIDS service, research and advocacy organization in Brazil, Parker has had a first-hand view of globalization's impacts on sexuality around the globe.

During his lecture Monday morning, July 28, Parker said the global HIV epidemic can be seen as systematic of globalization, stating "it is the first epidemic of the global age."

In regard to the world's thinking about sexuality, Parker argued that globalization has had the effect of transmitting notions about freedom, liberty and human rights to far-flung parts of the planet, forming worldwide movements for sexual freedom and acceptance of different sexual lifestyles.

"We have the global HIV activist movement and now the emergence of movements for sexual rights," said Parker.

As more of the world transitions from a rural to an urban lifestyle due to globalization, Parker said the change leads to more sexual freedoms and acceptance for homosexuality and abandonment of compulsory heterosexuality.

"Constructing styles of life around sexuality takes place more in urban than rural areas. It expands the sexual experiences people can have," he argued. "Sexualities are bouncing around and bumping into each other in this global world."

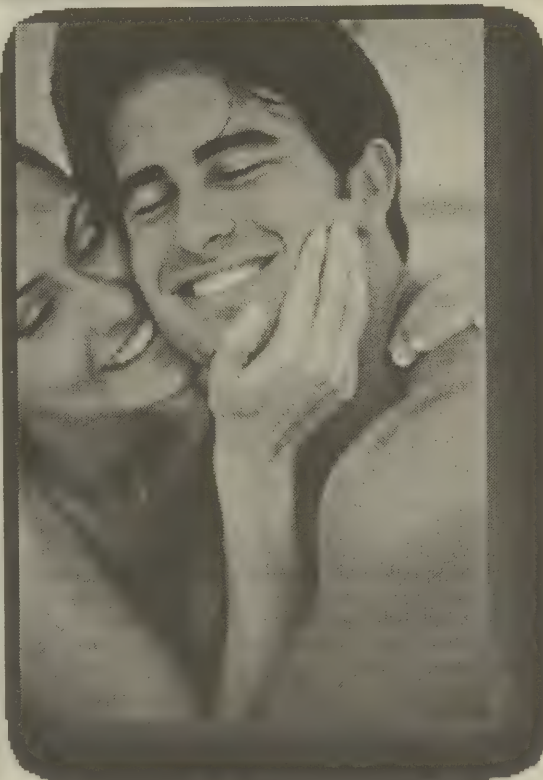
For the students, such lectures are expanding their comprehension about sexuality and how it can be molded by various forces. Jennifer Williams, an undergraduate in psychology with a minor in human sexuality at SFSU, said the institute has opened her thinking to how notions about sexuality become culturally embedded in society.

"The crossover between race and queer disability is big for me," said Williams, who uses a wheelchair and helped coordinate a queer disability conference at SFSU last year. ▽

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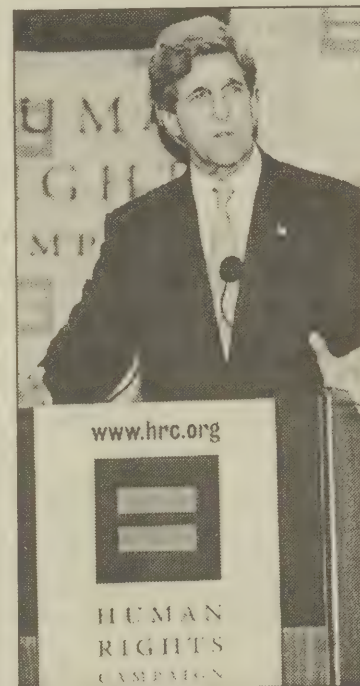
Our Man Friday

◀ page 10

week that the recall election had become inevitable. No way that Shelley is going to ever become known as California's Katherine Harris; the guy can be governor himself one day. Incidentally, Kevin, you might want to take note of this and have a bit of a sit-down talk with some of those holdover Republican members of your staff left behind by your predecessor, Bill Jones. Word has it that some of Shelley's staffers were spotted converging at their office windows on the day of his announcement to wave greetings and give thumbs-up to recall supporters gathered on the street down below. Political mischief gone amuck in Sacramento?

Back to the recall - again. I just got a phone call from a Tom S., a longtime reader, who said to me: "Wayne, can't you tell Willie Brown he has to convince Gray Davis that it's all over?" Guess it's on a lot of minds, but if you think I'm going to tell Willie Brown what he should be telling anyone, you better think again.

On the presidential campaign front, U.S. Senator John Kerry



Senator John Kerry in SF

(D-Massachusetts) got a great reception from the Human Rights Campaign gathering Saturday night here in the city, but it is former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, the darling of the lefties, who is supposedly climbing in California, according to the latest

page 21 ▶

NATIONAL NEWS

Senate advances Bill Pryor nomination

House defeats medical pot amendment

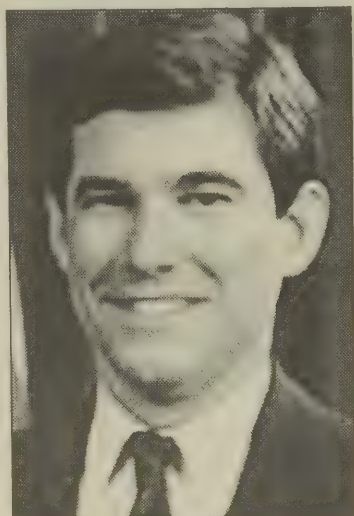
by Bob Roehr

The nomination of Alabama Attorney General William Pryor to be a federal judge on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals got out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on a 10 to 9 party line vote on July 23. Pryor is one of the most extreme candidates nominated to the federal judiciary by President George W. Bush.

Most recently, Pryor supported retention of state sodomy laws by filing an amicus brief in the *Lawrence* case. A majority of the U.S. Supreme Court disagreed and struck down the Texas sodomy law. In his brief Pryor associated homosexuality with incest, necrophilia, pedophilia, prostitution, and adultery. Alabama had a sodomy law and the attorneys general of two states with laws joined the brief, but nine other states did not.

Pryor has linked the official attorney general Web site to the Family Research Council and other organizations that generally take antigay stances.

The *New York Times*, in editorializing against Pryor, cited his description of the landmark abortion rights decision *Roe v. Wade* as "the worst abomination of constitutional law in our history." Other



Alabama Attorney General William Pryor

opponents are concerned with his support for religion in government.

There also are unanswered questions about Pryor using his office to raise money for the Republican Attorneys General Association. In all, more than 160 groups oppose the nomination.

"William Pryor has actively sought opportunities to marginalize gay Americans throughout his career. It is very unlikely that he would be able to set aside his personal views and make clear, unbiased decisions as a federal judge,"

said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign. She reiterated the organization's call for "fair-minded" members of the Senate to vote no on his confirmation.

The party line vote sends the nomination to the full Senate for consideration. It appears increasingly likely that Democrats will filibuster on the floor of the Senate to prevent a vote on Pryor. They may allow a vote, however, if they become convinced that they have won over the few moderate Republicans necessary to defeat it in that closely controlled body.

That same day the House voted on an amendment that would have prohibited federal prosecution of medical marijuana cases in states that have approved such use.

A bipartisan team of conservative Republican Dana Rohrabacher (California) and liberal Democrat Maurice Hinchey (New York) was behind the measure. However, it was defeated by a vote of 152 to 273.

Still, supporters took comfort in the fact that the atmosphere has begun to change since the last vote on medical marijuana, in 1998. That year the House went on record condemning state medical marijuana laws by a margin of 311 to 94. ▼

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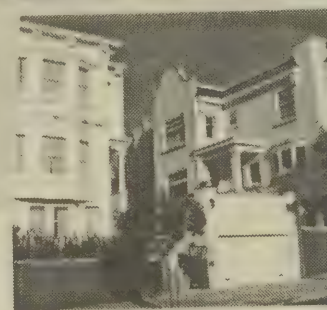
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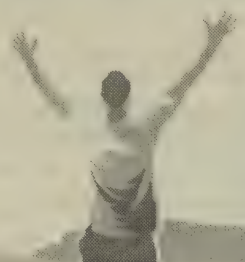


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The Planning Council usually meets the fourth Monday of each month from 4:30 to 7:30 PM in the Mayor's Conference Room (Room 201), San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett (on Van Ness Avenue, between Grove and McAllister Streets.)

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LGBT domestic violence report released

by Zak Szymanski

A shaky economy, a favorable sodomy ruling, and other social factors all have an impact on LGBT domestic violence cases, according to a summary report released last week by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.

With the addition of three new reporting agencies to this year's NCAVP report, there were 5,092 cases of LGBT domestic violence documented in 2002 in several states.

This is the seventh annual LGBT domestic violence report released by NCAVP, which defines relationship violence as "a set of behaviors used by one person in a relationship to control the other, including extreme violence, emotional cruelty, and even death."

NCAVP Executive Director Rachel Baum remarked that the addition of three new reporting agencies — from areas in Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Arizona — means that "more communities are taking responsibility by recognizing that domestic violence occurs in LGBT relationships and are finding ways of addressing it."

Not including the new reporting agencies, this year's statistics include a 2 percent drop in documented cases from 11 agencies around the country. The agencies — which include programs in California, Colorado, Ohio, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Minnesota — reported 4,947 cases of domestic violence for 2002, down from 5,034 in 2001.

However, such a decrease does not necessarily indicate a drop in abusive relationships, as NCAVP pointed out that the agencies reporting a drop also experienced a drop in funding that undoubtedly affected the organizations' abilities to locate and counsel survivors.

"This trend is attributed to ongoing decreases in funding and concordant staffing shortages and reduced outreach capacity," said a statement from NCAVP.

Other social factors influencing domestic violence and its doc-



CUAV's Shawna Virago

umentation include an increased focus on and acceptance of LGBT youth, which yielded a larger number of youth who reported abuse nationwide.

Additionally, the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling on sodomy that affirmed the right to privacy for consenting adults means that LGBT people should theoretically be more inclined to acknowledge their relationships, including their abusive ones. To Shawna Virago, a survivor advocate with San Francisco's Community United Against Violence, the ruling should allow greater access to protective orders against abusive partners.

"This year's historic Supreme Court antisodomy ruling is a tremendous step forward for LGBT civil rights, including the rights of LGBT domestic violence survivors," said Virago, who added that recent reports have documented that protective orders for LGBT survivors were clearly unavailable in six states. "The court's ruling invalidating all sodomy statutes means that LGBT people need no longer fear criminal prosecution for sodomy when attempting to obtain protection from abuse orders."

"With this ruling, it is incumbent upon the community to insist on its newly affirmed right to privacy for security rather than to hiding, justifying or ignoring abuse when it happens in LGBT

lives and communities."

Victim demographics

"If I declined, he forced me to have sex with him against my will. He also threatened to beat me with a baseball bat, and on one occasion threatened to sexually assault me with a broomstick," said Thomas, a female-to-male transgender in San Francisco whose story appeared along with other examples in the national report. (The agency did not include last names of survivors in the report.)

Locally, San Francisco reported 521 cases of LGBT domestic violence in 2002. The data was collected by CUAV, Queer Asian Women's Services of the Asian Women's Shelter, and the lesbian, bisexual and transgender anti-domestic violence program of W.O.M.A.N. Inc.

The majority of incidents, 326 out of 521, were reported by lesbians and gay men. There were 35 cases from survivors identifying as bisexual, and 60 cases from those identified as heterosexual (which in many cases include transgenders).

The majority of victims reporting abuse in San Francisco were people of color, who made up 37 percent of the cases. White victims accounted for 33 percent of the cases.

Nationally, whites made up the majority of cases, accounting for 47 percent of the reports. Latina/o victims accounted for 26 percent, African Americans accounted for 17 percent, and Asian Pacific Islanders accounted for three percent of the cases.

Other national trends included lesbians and gays accounting for 77 percent of cases; 34 percent of victims being under the age of 30; and a gender identity breakdown of 42 percent female victims, 51 percent male victims, and 2 percent identified as transgender.

As with all data specific to gender, race, or sexual orientation, however, NCAVP cautioned that many people fall into several categories, while others do not label themselves according to their sexual practices. ▼

Jim Reid

◀ page 1

live there with no plumbing and no electricity.

The complaints came from none other than former ShelterOne resident Jack Davis, no relation to the political consultant behind many high-profile San Francisco campaigns.

Davis, said Reid, heard about ShelterOne and Reid's homelessness efforts from his hometown in Nashville, Tennessee, and contacted Reid about working for the campaign. Reid, in turn, flew Davis out to San Francisco, equipped him with housing (which he later reported to authorities), a cell phone, and other perks in exchange for his campaign work.

When Davis continually showed up to work drunk, said Reid, he had to be let go. And in retaliation, Davis apparently filed numerous complaints with city agencies.

"He is the reason Care Not Cash passed," sighed Reid, who opposed the measure that sought

to cut welfare checks to the homeless. "He uses his money for alcohol. I'm ashamed I brought him here. But we all make mistakes."

Reid told the B.A.R. that he did indeed receive a building violation for ShelterOne after Davis reported him. The structure violates a number of building code laws, although city officials have thus far looked the other way, and there is a provision in local laws, said Reid, that makes exceptions for permanent homeless shelters.

Reid also said he has not been contacted by the Ethics Commission about renovating his house with campaign funds, which he acknowledges doing. Reid said he used \$1,500 of donations to make a room livable for homeless campaign volunteers.

"If I rented housing for campaign space there would be no problem. Instead, I created housing," said Reid. "I'm the only candidate to permanently house five homeless people as part of my campaign. It may be illegal, but it's certainly not unethical."

An Ethics Commission spokeswoman could not confirm or deny the investigation.

Davis, who attached a phone number to the press release he sent, could not be reached for comment. His voice mail, however, still identifies him as a campaign worker for Reid.

"Yeah, that's actually my cell phone he has," said Reid, who added that his disgruntled former volunteer has taught him "that the name 'Jack Davis' is evil no matter where he's from."

The better known Jack Davis served as a consultant to the political campaigns of Mayor Willie Brown and Frank Jordan, two politicians with whom Reid disagrees on a number of issues. Reid originally thought it was funny that he had employed a Jack Davis of his own. Now, he said, he's stuck with a lot of extra work just defending Davis's allegations.

The campaign will go on as usual, however, as Reid has announced another Muni marathon; he and campaign volunteers will ride the public transit system for 36 hours straight beginning on Monday, August 4. A rally and send-off will be held in Justin Herman Plaza at noon before the event. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Public support keeps Pacific Center afloat

by Zak Szymanski

Sometimes asking for a little help goes a long way.

Berkeley's pioneering LGBT community center, the Pacific Center for Human Growth, like most nonprofits, is struggling in this difficult economic climate.

In March, the Pacific Center announced that it had eliminated a staff position, and had cut the hours and salaries of two other positions, including that of Executive Director Frank Gurucharri. At that time, the Pacific Center also made a public appeal for donations while it looked to other revenue sources.

About \$19,000 was raised in a period of six weeks following that appeal, according to Pacific Center board member and fundraising chair Scott Vachon. The money raised means that the center — which offers counseling, support groups, information and referrals, HIV services, community outreach, a resource center, and social activities — will not have to reduce its hours or cut further staff.

Vachon said the appeal was necessary, and as a result of the organization's community support, paid off.

"We made the appeal because, like everybody, we were running a little short," said Vachon. "If we didn't raise that money we may have had to cut staff further, or we may have had to close one or two days a week at a time when we have more than 400 people a week coming through our doors."

Like other nonprofits in similar positions — San Francisco's Positive Resource Center in 2002 made a similar appeal — Vachon said that when government grants are reduced or eliminated and there are no immediate replacement sources of funding, there is little choice but to appeal to the public.

"The alternative to asking for money is not asking," laughed Vachon. "So we felt our alternatives were pretty limited."

Rest assured, the Pacific Center already has other funding plans in mind, including applying for grants and launching a 30th anniversary celebration, a block party which takes place on October 11, or National Coming Out Day.

The theme of the 30th anniversary event will be "Come out and come home," and the location will be announced once a permit is secured. At 30 years old, the Pa-

cific Center is the third oldest community center in the country.

Although no longer in crisis, Vachon said that donations are always welcome, and he is grateful to those who recognized the Pacific Center's value and necessity.

"The people who give to us have long-standing relationships with the Pacific Center; they either received some kind of services like counseling, or were a part of our peer groups like the lesbians of color group or the group for people who once were married. That's why I joined the board; I was a part of the Monday night men's group, and it meant a heck of a lot to me."

Despite the financial strain, the Pacific Center is still going forward with its plans to renovate or secure a new building, in cooperation with some city funding secured specifically for that purpose.

"We're looking forward to growing in many areas," said Vachon.

For more information on the Pacific Center, or to donate, visit www.pacificcenter.org. Volunteers are also needed for the Pacific Center's regular programs, and for the upcoming 30th anniversary events; call (510) 548-8283 for details. ▼

Filipino paper

◀ page 1

of any kind of -ism," he added.

Gay Asian groups agree. When shown the editorial by the *Bay Area Reporter*, gay Asians expressed dismay that such language would be deemed appropriate by the editors of the *Philippine News*.

"I find the article in the *Philippine News* not only hypocritical, but also demeaning, deeply insulting, and totally unprofessional journalism. I hope the editors of the *Philippine News* not only retract the article as written, but also severely reprimand the writer for such ignorant and hate-mongering poor journalism," said Vince Antao, the recent past co-chair of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance and a member of GAPA's advisory board, in an e-mail. "While Ms. Ricci may very well have been the victim of a racist remark from Mr. Connolly, and may deserve our understanding and sympathy, the *Philippine News* is guilty of making far more insulting and derogatory comments than those attributed to Mr. Connolly. I believe the *Philippine News* owes its readers, including its queer

FilAm [Filipino American] community, as well as the larger queer communities, an immediate and sincere apology."

Vincent Baduel, a gay Filipino American and current GAPA co-chair, said he intends not only to write the editors a letter expressing his concern about the editorial's language but to begin to monitor the paper's editorial content.

"I feel that this is very damaging and it sets back Asian journalism by a few years. Just because a person is a member of a minority group does not mean they can cast aspersions on another person," said Baduel.

Chris Bucoy Brown, a gay Filipino American and managing editor of the gay Asian magazine *Noodle*, said he was astounded to see the newspaper print such derogatory statements.

"I think it is regrettable that the *Philippine News* chose to basically try to make a point by using the same tactics this Mr. Connolly is being accused of playing at," he said. "This kind of playground name-calling is not just juvenile but really does a disservice to the community that the *Philippine News* claims to serve."

Brown said whoever is responsible for the editorial being pub-

lished should be placed under greater scrutiny by the paper's management.

"For somebody to put something out like that, I expect editorials to be intelligent pieces. This obviously wasn't," he said.

Danny Wan, a gay Asian who serves on Oakland's City Council, said the comments are insulting and inappropriate.

"I don't think this is acceptable behavior. I think we need to address it with the paper," said Wan.

When contacted by the *B.A.R.*, the writer of the editorial said he did not mean to insult anyone. Beting Dolor, the paper's managing editor and author of the piece, said he would write an apology for offending anyone in his column next week.

"There was no intention to insult anyone. Sometimes I get carried away. Yeah, I get a little overboard and I think this is one of those cases," Dolor said.

Dolor said before being contacted by the *B.A.R.* no one had complained about the editorial's content. Dolor, who said he has a gay brother who lives in Manila, said he is not against gay people.

"I have a brother who is gay so I am not homophobic for sure," he said. "You live and learn." ▼

Legislation

◀ page 5

other LGBT bills, including the domestic partnership bill and the equal benefits bill for state employees.

Pennsylvania order

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell has signed an executive order barring state agencies from discriminating against employees based on their gender identity, adding transgender people to the list of those whose rights are protected. The order adds "gender identity or expression" to the list that already includes race, reli-

gion, age, sexual orientation, and other criteria. It will generally affect people who are transgender. "The addition of only four words to this short executive order is an important step for the recognition of personal dignity and freedom," Rendell said in a statement.

Rendell spokesman Tom Hickey said the governor wants to make sure he honors people's right to personal freedom and how they express themselves.

Stephen Glassman, chairman of the state's Human Relations Commission, said the change is needed, adding that he is aware of several cases in which people have been fired from state agencies based on their gender identity.

"It's a difficult issue for them because there haven't been protections," Glassman said.

Stephen Miskin, a spokesman for Republican House Majority Leader Sam Smith, said he wasn't sure of the need for the executive order. Miskin said he hadn't ever heard of any discrimination concerning gender identity in state government. "We never knew that this was an issue before," Miskin said. "In a sense, it's just out of the blue." Miskin said he hadn't seen the order and would have to talk with Rendell's office more about the reasons for the change.

About 87,000 employees work for Pennsylvania state agencies, boards, and commissions. ▼

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Robert Noel may be paroled to Mendocino

by Ed Walsh

When Robert Noel is released from prison on September 12, he'll be paroled in Mendocino County, he told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a brief telephone conversation last week.

Noel, along with his wife, Marjorie Knoller, was convicted last year of involuntary manslaughter in connection with the fatal dog mauling of their lesbian Pacific Heights neighbor, Diane Whipple. Jurors sided with the prosecution that argued that the couple ignored warnings that their two Presa Canario dogs were dangerous.

Knoller will not be released until March 2004 at the earliest, according to California Department of Corrections spokeswoman Margot Bach. Although Noel and Knoller got the same sentence, Knoller will have to serve more time because she opted against taking a prison job, said Bach.

Noel said he was given the choice of parole to Ventura County, in Southern California, or Mendocino County. He said he chose Mendocino because he wanted to stay in Northern California.

Noel is currently in custody in the Oregon State Penitentiary, in Salem. He was moved out of state because of security concerns. As an attorney, Noel and his wife represented both prisoners and corrections officers. The couple's adopted prisoner son, Paul Schneider, is reportedly a member of the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang. The decision was made to keep Knoller incarcerated in California because, state officials said, violence is rare in the state's women's prisons.

Meanwhile, in his first public comments about the recently released book on the case, *Red Zone*, Noel blasted the book's author, Aphrodite Jones. He consented to interviews with the true crime writer while in prison. Noel said Jones lied to him. He said the author, who referred to him and Knoller as "psychopaths," led him to believe that she was going to be fair to his side.

"She changed about 150 degrees," Noel said.

In correspondence with this reporter last month, Noel wrote that he first lost respect for Jones after talking with her and reading some of her writings on other subjects. Noel said the "slippage of mental gears" was "present in her oral expressions as well as her written."

Jones was traveling and could not be reached for comment, her publicist said. ▼

Explore study

◀ page 1

place by July 2004, roughly around the time when the results of the Explore study could be published, adding more fuel to the debate on how best to approach reducing HIV transmission. If the study finds intensive counseling can be a successful intervention in controlling the transmission of HIV, it would give added ammunition to critics of the administration's proposal who argue that along with prevention for positives, negative men need to be part of the equation.

"It is always upsetting when the answers are right there and no one is listening," said Tony Buckman, the study's coordinator in San Francisco, of the potential for the study's results to be overlooked by federal health officials. "This Explore study will give us some answers as to how counseling can be part of the solution to slowing the spread of HIV."

No matter what the outcome of the study, Buckman said the Explore study has already dismissed the notion that gay men are no longer concerned about HIV.

"This study proves there are a lot of gay men out there who care about HIV and are struggling to live healthy and happy lives. That gives me hope," said Buckman, who identifies as queer.

In San Francisco, 736 men took part in the study, ranging in age from 18 to 60 years old. The men answered questions detailing everything from their sexual behaviors and drug use to their social relationships and conversations about sex with friends.

Two groups

The study split the men into two groups. The first group received standard HIV testing and counseling every six months, similar to the type of counseling people receive when attending a public health clinic for HIV testing. The counseling sessions lasted no more than 20 minutes when the men came in to be tested and roughly 15 minutes when they returned two weeks later for their results.

The second group of men met 10 times, one hour a week, with a counselor for a structured but individualized set of conversations. Thereafter the men were asked to come back for testing every six months, with a "booster" counseling session in between. Both the booster sessions and the counseling sessions during their HIV test lasted 50 minutes, while the sessions lasted 15 minutes when the men returned for their test results.

Once a participant tested positive, they were ineligible for the study and referred to various treatment programs or other research studies on HIV positive men.

For years many have argued that current methods of fighting HIV no longer work and new approaches are needed. When the Explore study began, researchers wanted to see if an intensive counseling program could help people protect themselves against HIV and other sexually-transmitted diseases.

"The question 'Does HIV counseling testing work?' will not be answered by this trial. It will answer whether intensive counseling will reduce HIV testing rates," said Grant Colfax, the study co-principal investigator in San Francisco, with Susan Buchbinder as the principal investigator.

"It will not tell us if HIV counseling works, per se, but if enhanced counseling would be better," he said.

Along the way, researchers found they had to be very aggressive in getting the men to come in for some of the intensive counseling sessions. While the men in the

second group came for the testing sessions, many had to be nudged to come in for the booster sessions.

"Many of the men didn't want the maintenance sessions, they only wanted the testing. It was an issue how to make them come in for these extra sessions," said Buckman. "They have busy lives and didn't want to come in. They didn't feel it was necessary."

Despite that difficulty, most of the men continued to come in for testing during the course of the study. In San Francisco, close to 86 percent of participants remained throughout the four years of the study.

"Our retention numbers are incredible," said Buckman.

Changes in approach

While he declined to predict what the study's ultimate outcome will be, Buckman said the study has already shown what simple changes in approaching HIV prevention health officials could take. He said most of the men liked having a regular testing schedule.

"They liked being in a system where they are getting a letter to remind them a month ahead of their testing and a phone call reminder the day before they are tested," he said.

For the men in the study, those in the intensive counseling arm said they particularly liked getting to know their counselors and seeing the same person over the years.

"I think it was good. It was positive in the way that I was able to talk about different issues in my relationships and boundaries," said Gary, 33, who asked that his last name be withheld. "For me, what helped was that it helped me make educated decisions about the risks that you take instead of necessarily saying 'No, you shouldn't be doing this.'"

The fact the study took place at all is still remarkable to those involved. Even with the Clinton administration in place when Explore began, it was still a fight to get the study funded. And many doubt it could be launched in

page 20 ►

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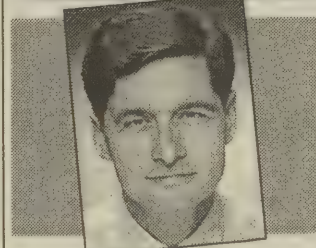
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Be proactive in HIV treatment choices

by Aaron J. Cohen

As a health education specialist in San Francisco, I've long noted a lack of practical health information and updates on issues of concern to the gay community. This report begins what I hope will become a regular resource on topics such as substance abuse, STDs, hepatitis, and, beginning this month, with HIV.

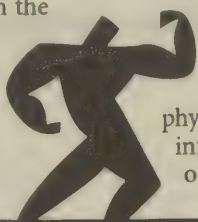
New directives by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have now placed prevention for positives as its top priority. New infections in San Francisco are on the rise and our demographics do not reflect the rest of the country. Statistically, the group experiencing the largest increase in infections within the U.S. is heterosexual men in their 20s (with African Americans disproportionately affected). Here in San Francisco, new infections are increasingly occurring among (predominantly white) gay men in their 30s, who engage in unprotected sex following recreational use of alcohol and/or methamphetamine. Recent evidence has shown that methamphetamine

use in HIV-positive individuals has been demonstrated to greatly increase HIV replication and may lead to permanent neurological damage, particularly in the pathways of the brain that utilize dopamine. Dopamine is one of the chemicals, called neurotransmitters, which are responsible for conducting nerve signals in the brain. Dopamine is responsible, in part, for controlling movement and mood.

In 2002 there were approximately 1,084 new cases of HIV, nearly twice the number reported in 1999. In 2002, 70 percent of new infections occurred in men who have sex with men and an additional 8 percent among men who have sex with men who use IV drugs. The incidence of new infections among heterosexuals where IV drugs were not involved was 1 percent. This increase is partially due to a mistaken reliance on the effectiveness of HIV medications. People have begun to believe that getting HIV is no longer a big deal. Many gay men no longer

take the same precautions against infection than they used to.

While new HIV treatments are constantly under development, resistance to individual drugs and entire classes of drugs are keeping pace. Almost all new infections involve resistance to one or more drugs. Making matters worse, a recent report in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* reported that only about one fourth of physicians who care for HIV infected patients are capable of accurately matching HIV mutations to the drug class that is affected. These



To Your Health

new infections are not a result of lack of information. We are more informed about HIV than ever before. Apathy and a misplaced reliance on the effectiveness of treatments, in complete ignorance of resistance and serious side effects, are killing our community.

An average of 30 studies are released each month on HIV alone. Given the fact that we may see our doctors maybe three or four times a year and that our visits are limited to probably less than a half hour, many treatment advances and updates go unrecognized and unused for some time. Here are some updates culled from the beginning of the year that may have practical implications for those who are already HIV-positive.

Lipodystrophy

One of the most disturbing aspects of HIV infection and treat-

ment is the accumulation and loss of fat (lipodystrophy) throughout the body. While the debate over the actual cause is still heated, it is becoming increasingly clear that certain antiretroviral drugs may be more responsible than others. These include the "d" drugs such as ddC, ddI, d4T, and AZT, much of which is broken down into d4T in the body. If possible, it may be best to avoid these drugs as a first line treatment or to switch from these drugs to ones that may be equally, if not more effective and carry fewer side effects.

Hepatitis

As a matter of course, I always recommend that gay men be vaccinated against hepatitis A and B. Both vaccines are very safe, even in those individuals with advanced HIV. However, it now appears that a significant number of HIV-positive individuals may not develop the required antibodies that would protect against infection. Similarly, those who have already been vaccinated and are HIV-positive may need to be re-vaccinated as they may very well have lost their protective antibodies. There is a direct correlation between low T cell count and the loss of antibodies or failure to develop them following vaccination. The need for adequate vaccination is very clear and the sooner it's done, the better. One recent study reported that individuals co-infected with HIV and chronic hepatitis B (about 10 percent of the HIV-positive population) were 17 times more likely to die than those with hepatitis B alone. Most insurance programs will cover the cost of these vaccinations and low cost or free vaccinations are available at the San Francisco City Clinic and the Haight/Ashbury Free Clinic.

Along the same lines, in the United States, approximately one out of every four individuals with HIV is co-infected with hepatitis C, which becomes chronic 85 percent of the time. Unfortunately, it also appears that one in five individuals with hepatitis C and HIV may not develop hepatitis C antibodies as a result of a compromised immune system. This means that even though they may have chronic, progressive hepatitis C, an antibody test will indicate that they are uninfected. Only a hepatitis C viral load will confirm the presence of the virus.

Tobacco & alcohol

And now it appears that all those recommendations your doctor gave you before you became infected, "Don't drink (alcohol), don't smoke (tobacco), get

enough exercise, and take your vitamins," are now even more important now that you are HIV-positive. A recent study reveals that HIV-positive smokers were twice as likely to develop PCP (pneumocystis pneumonia) and twice as likely to develop tuberculosis. Moreover, daily use of tobacco may make HIV medications up to 40 percent less effective. For those who are on HIV medications, research shows a correlation between moderate to excessive alcohol consumption, lower T cells and a higher viral load. This correlation was not seen among those who were HIV-positive and drank alcohol but were not taking HIV medications.

Finally, we all know the many benefits of regular exercise, which includes a better chance for a date on a Friday night. Many also know that regular exercise; especially regular aerobic exercise, has been shown to lower LDL (the bad cholesterol) and raise HDL (the good cholesterol). As if the benefit of reduced risk for cardiovascular disease was not enough, a Spanish study has shown that increased HDL levels may actually have the ability to help fight HIV and herpes simplex, helping to keep your viral load undetectable even longer. Another study provided additional evidence that regular aerobic exercise may also decrease the likelihood of fat redistribution (lipodystrophy) as a result of HIV infection and treatments. It also suggested that supplemental dietary vitamin E may have an effect on lowering diastolic blood pressure. In a blood pressure reading, systolic is the top number and diastolic is the bottom number. However, the study did not go so far to recommend daily supplements of vitamin E, which is fat-soluble and may become toxic if taken in excessive amounts.

The key then to maintaining the best possible health is to take a proactive approach to your treatment. Find out everything you can, ask your doctor lots of questions, and don't hesitate to seek out additional assistance if you need to. ▼

Aaron J. Cohen, is a certified health education specialist, with a master's degree in public health in community health education. He is also an independent health counselor, specializing in HIV and hepatitis. The information provided in this column is not intended as a substitute for medical advice. For more information please go to www.BestHealthAdvocate.com.



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STOP AIDS PROJECT

Explore study

◀ page 18

today's charged atmosphere in Washington.

"I don't know if we would get funding for it today. There are a number of political realities and fiscal realities right now that would make it challenging," said Colfax. "It was challenging the first time securing resources to do the study."

Added Buckman, "This study will never be done again. Under this current administration and the current budget crisis city, state, and federal governments are facing we will never see the funding for a study like this again."

For more information about the Explore study, and for copies of research already presented about the risk behaviors of the men involved in the study, visit the Explore Web site at www.explorestudy.org. ▼

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OBITUARIES

Michael Cameron Benbrook



Michael Cameron Benbrook passed away July 20, 2003 in West Hollywood, California after a long battle with AIDS. He was 42.

Michael was a well-known and beloved singer-actor-performer in San Francisco throughout the '80s and '90s. He will long be remembered as a cast member of Beach Blanket Babylon, with over seven years of performing with the show. After leaving BBB, he went on to star in many theater productions and revues in the San Francisco and Los Angeles Area. Most notable were his roles as "Miss Texas" in "Pageant," and his unforgettable rendition of Joan Crawford in "Christmas with the Crawfords."

Michael began his stage career in Sacramento, California where he starred in many local productions, and formed a lifetime camaraderie with local actors and friends. He moved on to San Francisco in the early '80s where he met his lifelong friend Boyd Converse. They performed in such local reviews as "Loti and Ruby" with the local underground theater and drag troupe "Sluts-a-Go-

Go" headlined by Doris Fish. Michael's stunning 6' 3" stature and red hair made him at once immediately recognizable and unforgettable. Michael created the drag persona of "Ruby Begonia Bidet" in which he delighted, amazed and wowed audiences in numerous theater, cabaret, nightclub and underground performance venues, as well as annually at the SF Pride and the New York "Wigstock" celebrations. Commercially "Ruby Begonia Bidet" was seen in a line of Palm Press Greeting Cards, JO BOXER advertisements, and internationally on the runway at designer Thierry Mugler's yearly Vienna Fashion extravaganza, "Love Ball."

In the mid '90s Michael took his performing talents to Europe where he performed in Cabaret Production at the Grand Victoria Hotel in the Swiss skiing resort town of Interlocken for several years, spending his off season touring the continent.

Off stage Michael was equally as impressive, engaging and arresting. He forged friendships and community at every juncture. His personal strength, daring and dignity stood in contrast to his warmth and caring. He received great strength and inspiration from women performers including Siouxi Sioux, Debra Harry, and Judy Garland. Michael made great friendships, and was deeply loved by many through his

life.

Michael is survived by his parents, Judy and Bob Benbrook, his brothers Rod and Austin, his nephews Curtis and Ashley and numerous friends throughout California. A celebration of his life will take place Saturday, August 9, 2003, at the AIDS Memorial Grove, at 1 p.m. The public is welcome.

In lieu of flowers, donations are being accepted to memorialize his name at the Grove.

Joseph Bernard "Barney" Levenspiel

August 18, 1955 — July 11, 2003



Joseph Bernard "Barney" Levenspiel of Seattle died Friday, July 11 due to complications from a kidney transplant. Born in Pennsylvania on August 18, 1955 to Octave and Mary Jo Levenspiel, he graduated from Corvallis High School in Oregon in 1972. Barney attended Grinnell College; Wasada University (Tokyo); and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Carlton College in 1976 with an International Relations degree. He studied at

the UN in Geneva and the EEC in Brussels. In 1982 Barney moved to Japan and began a 22-year career with the International Exchange Program, Labo. In 1987, his kidneys failing, he returned to Seattle to coordinate the US exchange for Labo. He was on dialysis for 14 years until his kidney transplant in January 2003. Interested in culture and history, Barney traveled extensively and was fluent in several languages. He was an avid, eclectic reader, accomplished musician, political activist, superb cook and creative gardener. Above all he was blessed with loving and devoted friends who were the joy of his life. Surviving Barney are his parents; brother, Morris; sister, Rebecca Levenspiel, her husband Keith, and their sons; and his beloved dog Lily.

Memorial information and condolences at: <http://home.comcast.net/~levenspiel/barney/index.htm>

Henry Wusiewski



"Hank" passed away in his native town of Naticoke, Pennsylvania on July 13th, 2003. His death was attributed to heart failure.

Hank spent many years in his favorite city of San

Francisco. He was an active member of the gay community and a long-time affiliate of the GDI motor club.

Hank is survived by his sisters, Leona and Doris, a niece, Terry, and many friends in the city. His ashes will be part of a tree dedication in Golden Gate Park at a later date. For information, call 255-7929.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Memorial for Mike Salinas next week

by Cynthia Laird

A memorial celebrating the life of former Bay Area Reporter news editor Mike Salinas will be held Thursday, August 7 in San Francisco, fami-

ly and friends have announced.

Mr. Salinas died July 14 in his New York City home. He was 46.

The August 7 celebration will be held from 6-9 p.m. in the Gazebo Room (above the South Tower entrance) at California Pacific Medical Center, Davies

Campus, located at Duboce and Castro streets. There is a paid parking lot next door and the medical center is one block from the N-Judah Duboce Park Muni stop.

People can RSVP at jimproven@yahoo.com. ▼

Our Man Friday

◀ page 14

Field Poll. Sure, I know (please, I hear it all the time) that Dean is currently the favorite among liberal Democrats, and is currently looking good, but I'm betting it won't last. Dean must do well — not win, necessarily, but do very well — in Iowa, then he must win in New Hampshire before he can even get to the heavy states like California, Michigan, etc. The really good news from the latest California Field Poll showed **George W. Bush** dropping like a rock in the state. In April Dubya was beating whoever the Democrats nominated by a 45 percent to 40 percent margin; the new Field Poll shows him now losing to any unnamed Democrat, 40 percent to

39 percent.

Representative **Barney Frank** (D-Massachusetts), one of my favorite politicians, spoke last week to more than 300 gay and lesbian Stonewall Democrats in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware and told them that they're a very important tool in helping change national policy on sexual orientation. The Stonewall Delaware group is fighting to get a bill through the state Senate that would make sexual orientation a category protected by the state's antidiscrimination laws.

Also on the upcoming October 7 ballot, Californians will vote on two statewide measures. Proposition 53 will be the ACA 11 measure, dealing with infrastructure funding; if approved, ACA 11 would require that each year 3 percent of the state's general fund

would be used for infrastructure funding. Proposition 54, the so-called racial privacy initiative — also known as **Ward Connerly's** initiative and as CRENCO, or classification by race, ethnicity, color and national origin. If passed, it would bar the state and other public entities, including its college and university systems, from classifying individuals on the basis of race, ethnicity, color or national origin. In other words, it would stop the state from collecting and using most kinds of racial and ethnic data.

And finally, one of San Francisco's brightest, singer and comedienne **Sharon McNight**, returns August 5-16 to the Plush Room at the York Hotel with an all-new show. Don't miss her (415-885-2800 for reservations).

And how was your week? ▼

Lazy Bear Weekend a success



These three unidentified bears had a great time during the 2003 Lazy Bear Weekend in Guerneville earlier this month. Harry Lit, of Castrobear Presents, and his partner Allen Eggman co-founded the weekend getaway at the Russian River eight years ago. Lit told the Bay Area Reporter that this year's event raised more money than ever before — \$115,000-plus — that will be distributed to 13 organizations, including agencies in San Francisco, Sacramento, and the Russian River area. More than 5,500 revelers attended the five-day long weekend. "It was beyond our wildest expectations," Lit said. The checks will be distributed over Folsom Street Fair weekend in September.

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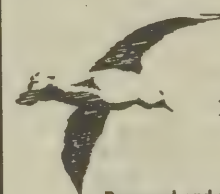
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Split decision

by Jim Provenzano

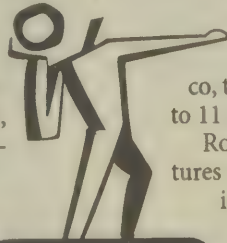
Two utterly fabulous gay and lesbian sporty events, each with its own luscious level of fabulousity, are taking place this Saturday, August 2. What to do, what to do? Flip a coin? Clone oneself?

"Viva Shopping" offers an evening of cocktails, wonderful food, entertainment, and great shopping.

Tsunami, our own fluid and fun GLBT swim club, whose members range from enthusiastic novices to multiple medal winners, will raise funds for IGLA 2003. The annual International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics tournament, taking place August 22-24 at Stanford University's brand spanking new pools and diving facility, is going to cost a few bucks, so chip in while having fun.

Organizers are busy planning to host up to 1,000 swimmers, divers, and water polo players from around the world.

In the group's last fundraiser before the big splashy powwow, you can meet and greet them at 1235 Howard Street, (between 8th and 9th) in San Francisco, this Saturday from 7:30 to 11 p.m.



Sports Complex

Rolo SOMA, which features cutting edge high fashion for men and women, opens its doors exclusively for this event, and will give back 10 percent of the evening's sales to IGLA 2003 charities Shanti and the LGBT Community Center.

Then, traipse upstairs to a fabulous loft to enjoy Skyy Vodka cocktails, great hors d'oeuvres, and wonderful entertainment from Make It So Productions and Viva Variety.

Indulge in a silent auction to titillate your senses. Your contribution? Ten dollars at the door. What a bargain to start the evening.

Attendance is limited – so respond via e-mail to stalwart event organizer Brian Fitzgibbons at bfitzgibbons@earthlink.net.

Enjoy a lovely iced beverage and the pleasure of shopping, all for a cause. Visit www.sftsuna-mi.org.

Skate ball

Speaking of ice, the figure skating community will donate its time for what promises to be a great evening of artistic athleticism on Saturday, August 2 at Yerba Buena Ice Rink.

To celebrate his 50th birthday, figure skating medalist Alan Lessik (who doesn't look a day over 35), has organized a benefit show that will hopefully raise up to \$5,000 to share between two groups he works with, the San Francisco



What, this old thing? Fashion options await at swimming and skating events this Saturday.

School Volunteers and the Music Theater Collaborative.

The lively array of performing skaters will include Skate Out organizer Thom Mullins, doing his hilarious Dame Edna routine, which won second place at Adult Nationals this year.

Gay Games participants and medalists will include John Manzón-Santos, Ward Kokuban, Dan Ashbrook, Matt Newman, Jay Kobayashi (also 2002 Gold Adult Nationals Champion), and Mike Dianda (also first place Men's Masters Interpretive in Adult Nationals).

Thrill to the jumps and spins, enjoy the splendor of terpsichorean excellence on ice. Afterward, enjoy Open Skate yourself from 9 to 11 p.m., or attend the party.

The event is Saturday, August 2, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Yerba Buena Ice Rink, Folsom & 4th streets. Admission is \$10-\$50. Children get in free. Info: www.sfsv.org.

Ho hum

Officials monitoring the behavior of allegedly straight athletes are in a tizzy over sexual shenanigans yet to happen.

According to Reuters, Swedish reps protested last week over "shocking" Greek plans to license more brothels in time for the 2004 Olympics.

Sweden and six neighbors wrote to Athens officials to express their outrage, ignoring the host city's denial that it was catering to an expected rise in sex tourism.

"It is with indignation and surprise that we have learned that Greece plans to increase brothel activities during the Olympics in Athens 2004," their letter read.

"This will lead to more women being exploited and abused."

There was no mention of male escorts being included in this athletically sexual plan in the city considered to have brought homosexuality to literary greatness.

The Swede prudes said this was incompatible with Olympic ideals.

Have they ever met any Olympic athletes?

Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister and Equality Minister, Margareta Winberg, persuaded ministers in Norway, Finland, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to join her in expressing their "abhorrence."

Officials in Denmark, however, defended Greece's plans, noting prostitution was legal in Greece. Prostitution is also legal in Den-

mark.

Athens Mayor Dora Bakoyannis denied the charges, saying she was fighting for women's rights and only getting illegal brothels to apply for needed licenses.

Sweden's Olympic committee later said it would not forbid its athletes from visiting brothels during the Athens jockfest, saying it trusts its representatives to save their best performances for the Games.

"We do not need to interfere in the private lives of our athletes or threaten them," said Swedish Olympic Committee spokesman Bjorn Folin last week. "We have never had any problems. Our athletes will stay focused on their performances at the Games."

God forbid the medaled jocks would have to cruise that drafty Parthanon.

Peak performance

Hopefully, they won't need Viagra as part of their free time fun, especially Brazilian soccer players.

Soccer legend Pele was featured in recent male impotency ads. But they got the boot last week when Brazil banned the promos, citing fears they were stimulating Brazilians into erection-fueled frenzies.

Ad watchdog group Anvisa voiced concern that men were taking them to give their sexual activities an extra boost. They said nothing about their annual Carnivale contributing to the libido liberation.

Recent studies show Viagra is a hit with Brazilian youths who use it for recreation rather than procreation.

"The drugs should be used only to treat specific illnesses. The indiscriminate and unnecessary use of these products may represent risks to the consumer's health," Anvisa said.

Brazil is Pfizer's second-biggest market for Viagra. Anvisa will impose fines of up to 1.5 million reais (\$517,000) for airing or publishing the ads. There will be "other stricter punishments" for repeat offenders, it said.

Maybe they'll punish their Brazilian soccer players by sending them here. Oh, please, oh please...

Packed Speedos

The *Sydney Morning Herald's* Richard Hinds offered a few interesting comments in a column last week, rephrasing a previously ran article in which he was perceived as having disdained the "enor-

mous" talents of Aussie Olympic swimmer Ian Thorpe at a recent swimming competition.

"There are those who have suggested swimming has been disregarded in this space as a recreation that cannot be taken seriously until the lane ropes are removed and the term 'full tackle' does not refer exclusively to a particularly tightly packed pair of Speedos," he wrote.

"Because he is so clean-cut and fashion conscious, Thorpe has even been forced to declare himself robustly heterosexual on an ABC radio program. It is sad that he felt the need. That the perceptions of some could somehow damage his reputation."

Wherever the contents of Thorpe's "tightly packed" Speedos are aimed, we wish him well, especially in Athens next year, where he may have to compete out of the pool with potentially Viagra-crazed athletes.

Pumped up

Maryland musician Julia Rose has been banned from a Borders bookstore.

Rose, who is also a fitness advocate, told a Fredericksburg, Virginia, audience that, "George Bush has chicken legs. He needs to pump some iron."

Rose said she has made the same comment at other Borders stores with no problems.

"In fact, the audience in Fredericksburg laughed when I said this," she told the *Free Lance-Star* newspaper. "The reaction was nothing different than typical crowds I've had."

Amy Korsun, area marketing manager for the Michigan-based bookstore chain, confirmed to wire services that Rose has been banned from performing at the Fredericksburg store. She said Rose will be allowed to continue playing at other Borders stores in Virginia. She declined to say why Rose was banned from the Fredericksburg store.

Rose said she's mystified by the reaction.

"I never said anything about Bush being a bad president or anything," she said. "I was just poking fun at his scrawny frame."

Good thing she didn't comment on Bush's perpetually flexing Fibossimus Maximus muscles. ▼

For more hard sports journalism, visit the tightly packed www.sportscomplex.org.

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395 Ninth Street
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AIDS Community Research Consortium
Conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia CARE Unit
At St. Mary's Medical Center seeks volunteers to visit patients with HIV-related cognitive impairments. Call Stephan Ouellette, MSW, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund
Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS/HIV Nightline
Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel
Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems; incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Memorial Grove
Monthly workdays: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS Project of the East Bay
HIV education & prevention programs, case management, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 1755 Broadway, 2nd floor, Oakland. (510) 663-7979

AIDS Support Group
Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group provides practical, emotional, and, where desired, spiritual support for persons living with AIDS without regard to religious preference, age, race, gender, sexual preference, or disability. Volunteer training provided. For info or to volunteer, call (415) 863-1581.

AIDS Treatment Education Network
Provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS: holistic healing and survival strategies. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project
"We Are Family," on-going support group for gay men. Tues. & Thurs., 7pm. Call for no-fee intake. 436-9000.

Asians & Leather
Support group for gay Asian men who identify with leather. Info c/o Pacific Friends, PO Box 641008, or e-mail lchoi415@aol.com

Bay Positives
Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. Ongoing support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Baylands Family Circle
Nonprofit group of families headed by gay, lesbian and bisexual partners, meets monthly for social. Call Tom, 858-2468.

Bereavement Groups
For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Breast Cancer Action
Carries the voices of people affected by breast cancer to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic. For info, call 243-9301.

Brown Boyz
Drop in group for gay/bi Latino men under 25, addressing HIV and other survival issues. Meets every Mon. at 6:30pm. PCPV, 2973 16th St. 864-7278.

Buddhist AIDS Project
Provides info on Buddhist resources, events, and HIV alternative health services. Call 522-7473.

Cancer Support Group
Based in San Francisco and offers a caregivers support group, a grief group, and counseling for cancer patients, their friends, and families. For info call Brian at 422-2137.

Catholic Charities
Residential and direct HIV services include Guerrero House, Peter Claver Community, more. 814 Mission. 281-1200.

Center for Special Problems
Groups for people with HIV: Gay's men's spirituality and healing group beginning 9/28; gay men's mid-life group beginning 9/27; heterosexual men's group beginning 9/28. Must call for times and to pre-register. 922-1521.

Coming out support group for women
Meets Weds., 7:30-9pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market. All women questioning their sexuality welcome. Info: Lynne, 626-7000.

Diabetics
Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type I and Type II diabetics in SF and the Bay Area. Info: (510) 865-2933.

Dimensions
Comprehensive health, mental health, and substance abuse services for LGBTQ youth ages 12-25 in a safe, supportive environment. Sliding scale based on income. No one is turned away. Every Thursday from 5 to 8pm at 3850 17th Street, at Pond, in the Castro. Drop-in or by appt. Call 487-7589.

FABRIC
A support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

Filipino Task Force on AIDS
Provides prevention, education and direct care services to Filipinos and others affected by HIV/AIDS. 1540 Market, Suite 325. Info: 703-9880.

Gay Dads
Gather to talk about your kids, lovers, ex's, etc. Joel Wechsler, MFCC. Alternative Family Project. 436-9000.

Gay & Lesbian Asylum Project
Seeks volunteer to coordinate outreach to immigrants with asylum claims based on sexual orientation. Call Aaron Myers, 641-9276.

Gay/Lesbian Christian Scientists
Sharing support, insight, metaphysical science. Meets 2nd Monday of month. Info: Craig, 281-0636.

Gay Men's STD/VD Clinic
Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun. 5-7pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7pm. 2339 Durant Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

Gay Young Spirit
A new spiritual/social group for gay men in their 20s & 30s, meets alternate Tues., 7:15pm, in SF. Call 703-7181.

G40+ Club
A social group for gay/bi men 40 and over, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1997.

Health Support Services
For PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-9pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis B Testing
And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men. Free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

Hepatitis C Helpline
Peer support for persons afflicted with hep C. Call 834-4100.

HIV Advocacy Network
Grassroots organizing project of SF AIDS Foundation: phone/fax tree action alerts, government lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. 487-3034.

HIV Employment Rights Project
Legal advice and counseling for people with HIV about their rights in the workplace. Call 593-0035 in the Bay Area and (888) 864-0628 toll-free in California.

HIV Drop-In Groups
Co-ed for people with HIV, Wed., 8pm. Women with HIV, Tues., 10am. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

HIV Testing
Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Home Care Companions
Provides classes on how to care for a loved one living with AIDS or cancer. For next class sessions, info., call 824-3269.

Immune Enhancement Project
Treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Lesbians with Cancer
12 week psycho-social support group at the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, 1748 Market. Classes are offered on a sliding scale basis. Call 565-7672 x370 to register.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center
Quality, affordable, non-judgmental medical care to women by women, special outreach to lesbian and bisexual women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

Maitri Residential Care
For people disabled by HIV requiring 24-hour medical care. For info or to volunteer, call 558-3000.

Marin Co. STD/HIV Clinics
STD testing, treatment; HIV anonymous testing, treatment. Call 499-7804.

Men Overcoming Sexual Assault
Operates sexual assault hotline for men, Mon.-Fri., 7-10pm. (510) 845-7273.

New Leaf
Provides substance abuse, mental health, HIV and senior services for les, gay, bi, and trans community. Info/intake: 626-7000.

Pacific Center
Counseling services, social groups for queer youth & adults, sliding scale. 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. (510) 548-8283.

Paradigm
Models for enhancing life near death, serves the terminally ill, free 10-week support group in SF. Call for info: 522-9192.

Positive Resource Center
Provides work referrals and benefits counseling to people with HIV/AIDS. To list a job opening, attend an employment opportunity orientation, or set up an appointment for benefits counseling call 777-0333.

Project Open Hand
Provides free prepared meals, groceries and nutritional counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for intake information.

Prostate Cancer Resource
Provides the latest treatment information, education, referrals, free P.S.A. screening test for low income men in the community. Call 1-888-983-7833 or e-mail: pc-res@interx.net.

Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida
Counseling and workshops on HIV and other life issues for gay, les, bi and trans Latinos/as. 864-7278.

PWA Long-Term Survivors
Support group for men: small, friendly, pro-active. Call Carol, 584-1708.

Q Action
Cool programs for guys 25 and under who dig other guys. Chill, chat, and find a date. A program of the Stop AIDS Project. Check us out at 415-865-0790, ext. 304 or www.qaction.org.

Richard M. Cohen Residence
SF's first assisted-living residence for people disabled by AIDS, needs volunteers (call 558-0503) and household donations (call 282-6209).

Richmond Area Multi-Services in SF
Offers low fee counseling/ psychotherapy services to sexual minorities, people with HIV/AIDS. Support/ therapy groups for family/ loved ones of PWAs in English, Russian, Cantonese, Vietnamese. 668-5955.

Sadhana Brothers
Gay/bi men's Hindu/Yogic fellowship, meets monthly for chanting, meditation, informal discussion. Call Ed, 647-4388.

San Mateo County AIDS Program
Provides prevention, health care, services and advocacy. Volunteer resources coordinator: (650) 573-2488. Information: (650) 573-2588.

SCA
Sexual Compulsive Anonymous meets Mon. at 7:15pm & Fri. at 6:30pm, 1874 Market. 1-800-977-HEAL.

Senior Central
Provides info, referral and assistance to gay and lesbian seniors. Free and confidential services. 360 4th St. 777-3233.

Sex Workers
St. James Infirmary, every Wednesday 6-9pm at City Clinic, 7th and Folsom. Free, non-judgmental health care for sex workers. Men's support group at 7pm on first Wednesday. (415) 554-8494.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic
City Clinic provides free or low cost confidential, comprehensive STD diagnostic and treatment services for anyone 12 years of age or older. The clinic is located at 356 7th Street, between Folsom and Harrison streets and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8am-4pm, Tuesday from 1-6pm, and Thursday from 1-4pm.

Shanti
Provides practical assistance to people living with AIDS. Volunteer training provided. For info on services, call 674-4700; to volunteer, call 674-4722. New location is in the Project Open Hand building, 730 Polk Street, at Ellis.

Shanti's El Programa Latino
Provides emotional and peer counseling and practical support to Latino men, women, adolescents and children infected with and affected by HIV. For more information, call 674-4700.

Southern Alameda HIV Services
Tri-City Health Center provides comprehensive HIV services, with offices in Fremont and Hayward, (510) 713-6670 and 727-9233, respectively. Spanish and Tagalog spoken.

STD Check-ups
Free testing site given by City Clinic, 2nd Thurs. of each month, 8:30-10:30pm. Blow Buddies, 933 Harrison. 863-4323.

St. Francis Senior Center
Invites seniors to weekly gatherings, Wed. 10am-2pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 621-2635.

Stonewall Project
A harm reduction program for GBT men who have questions about or issues with speed. Individual or group counseling offered with no requirement that you be clean and sober (or even want to be). Call for daily drop-in times: 3180 18th Street @ Folsom, Suite 202, SF 94110. (415) 502-1999; TTY (415) 502-5724; fax (415) 502-5764.

Transgenders in Transition
Alternative Family Project's ongoing support group for transgendered and transsexual folk. Thurs., 7:30pm. 425 Divisadero, Suite 203b. 436-9000.

Transitions
Nonprofit consulting service: guidance, referrals and resources for the dying and their caregivers. Call David Cardenas, 664-6975.

Transgender Support Group
Multiracial rap group, every first Monday of month, 6:30pm. Call Adela Holiday, Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, 864-7278.

UCSF AIDS Health Project
Offers: (1) ongoing groups for persons diagnosed with KS; (2) Tues. night support group for women who are caregivers or family members of PWAs; (3) support group for HIV+ African-American heterosexual men. Info: 476-3902.

Unity Project
A UCSF study for people living with HIV. Share your experiences as they relate to your health and well-being including stress and coping, problem solving, risk reduction, etc. Participants must be 18 years or older. Cash for eligible participants. Call (415) 597-4669.

Visiting Nurses & Hospice of San Francisco
Grief support group for gay men coping with the death of a lover or life partner begins in October and continues each Tuesday through December. For information call VNH at 750-6800, ext. 21700.

Volunteer haircutters needed
For HIV patient services at Davies Med. Center. Once a month, 3-hr. shift on Mon. Call Barbara at 565-6374.

We Care Bay Area
Provides emergency financial support to individuals affected by AIDS and other serious illnesses. Requests must be made thru a Bay Area outreach or social service agency. Info: 282-1911.

WilCare Hospice
& Home Care offers free 20-hr. training course for volunteers. 2001 Gateway, San Jose. Call (408) 467-0777.

Women's Cancer Resource Center
Support, resource & advocacy group for Bay Area women with cancer, their friends, families. Provides individual peer counseling & drop-in support groups, educational programs, legal workshop & more. 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 548-9272.

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC HEARING



SAN FRANCISCO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (SFLAFCo) is scheduled to hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 15, 2003, in the Legislative Chambers, Room 250, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place on the R. W. Beck Final Report on Community Aggregation (AB117) Migden.

SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER ASSURANCE

Consumer Tip! With the high cost of fuel these days it make sure you get what you pay for! Always make sure you are paying the advertised price per gallon for fuel. Contact the San Francisco Department of Consumer Assurance if you have a complaint relating to weight, count or measure. The round county seal on the gas pump ensures the pump was tested and the Department of Consumer Assurance phone number is on the seal for your protection. Be a smart consumer!

Consumer Tip! Be aware of parking meters in San Francisco that do not give the correct amount of time for your money. If you receive a parking meter ticket in San Francisco and you believe the parking meter is inaccurate, contact the Department of Consumer Assurance and one of our inspectors will test the meter for accuracy. If the meter is found to be inaccurate, the Department can help you challenge the ticket. Provide the meter number and location of the meter when calling or using the online complaint form.

The Dept. of Consumer Assurance protects San Francisco's citizens by researching consumer complaints regarding the sale of goods and services sold by weight, count or measure. Consumer protection includes testing scales, price scanners and packaged commodities in retail stores, testing taxicab meters for accuracy, testing gasoline pumps and many other devices. Inspectors regulate quality standards for produce, plants and flowers and complete pest inspections to protect Californians billion dollar agriculture crops from diseases. The department protects consumers and businesses from dishonest practices that include fraud, deceptive practices or negligence. The Department also handles insect identification, bee inquiries and provides information about the Alemany Farmers Market and Alemany Antique & Collectibles Market.

Contact the department to report possible fraud relating to weight, count or measure, deceptive packaging or advertising, retail store scanner pricing errors, inaccurate meters, short weight on products, substandard produce or illegal tobacco advertising. A consumer complaint form is available on our website at www.ci.sf.ca.us/casf or contact us directly with complaints. Help us promote equity in the marketplace in San Francisco!

For more information: San Francisco Department of Consumer Assurance, 501 Cesar Chavez, Suite 109A, San Francisco, CA 94124 (415)824-6100; fax(415)285-8776;TTY:415-285-1214Toll Free: (888) 966-SURE (7873) www.sfgov.org/casf

BLACK INFANT HEALTH PROGRAM

The Black Infant Health Improvement Program (Bi-Hip) is a free program that provides supportive services to pregnant and parenting African American women with children up to 2 years of age. If you or someone you know is a woman that needs help finding a doctor, getting to appointments, connecting to community resources, preparing for a new baby, or just someone to talk to, please call Bi-Hip at (415) 671-0214.

STATEMENT FILE 0268098-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:ICONA. San Francisco Shopping Center/ 865 Market Street #T09R/ San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mee Hyang Cha. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on July 01, 2003.
JULY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540810

In the Matter of the Application of Chontae Claudisha Love. For change of Name. The application of Chontae Claudisha Love for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Chontae Claudisha Love has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Chontae Claudisha Burks. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 02 day of September at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JULY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540819

In the Matter of the Application of Yasmin Sarafina Djene Okino For change of Name. The application of Yasmin Sarafina Djene Okino for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Yasmin Sarafina Djene Okino has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Michelle Jeneen Hawkins. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 09 day of September at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JULY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540813

In the Matter of the Application of Lori Lyn Ottersbach For change of Name. The application of Lori Lyn Ottersbach for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Lori Lyn Ottersbach has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Peter Lyn Ottersbach petitioner has also filed a petition for a decree changing petitioner's gender from female to male and for the issuance of a new birth certificate reflecting the gender and name changes. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of September at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JULY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267983-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:Pick-A-Movie Delivery Service. 1760 Pacific Avenue #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Darryl B. Gregory. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/26/2003.
JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO:0239873-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Bayareagaytours.com. Located at: 710 14th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business was conducted by an individual signed Brad Goessler. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: April 07, 2000.
JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268242-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:Sales Solutions. 4096 17th Street, #204, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kathleen Amendola. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 8, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/8/2003.
JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO:0262911-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: The Willows Inn. Located at: 710 14th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business was conducted by an individual signed Brad Goessler. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: December 10, 2002.
JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540824

In the Matter of the Application of Nancy Ann Shore For change of Name. The application of Nancy Ann Shore for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Nancy Ann Shore has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Nancy Ann Dillon-Shore. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 11th day of September at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

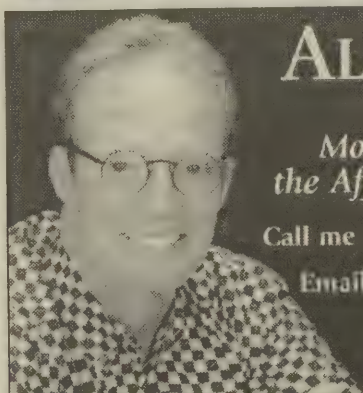
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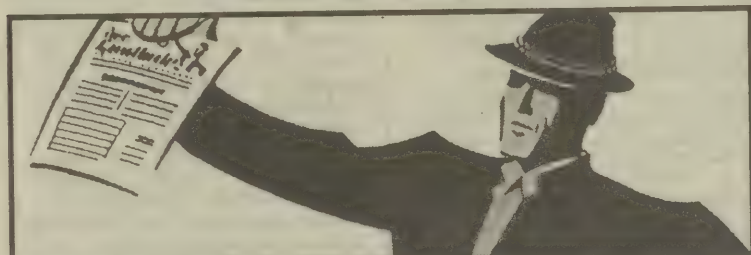


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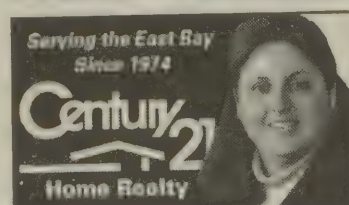
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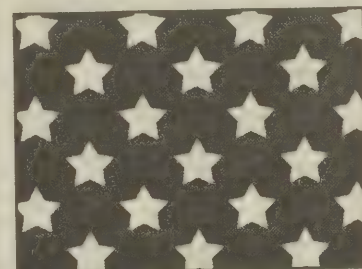
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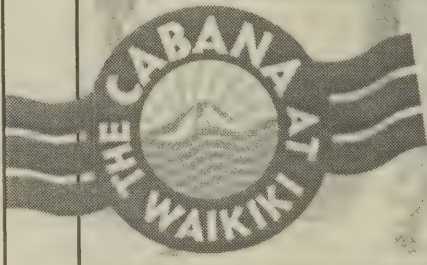
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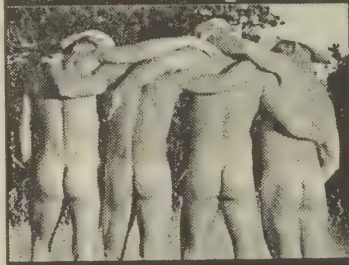


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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540825

In the Matter of the Application of Angela Jane Dillon For change of Name. The application of Angela Jane Dillon for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Angela Jane Dillon has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Angela Jane Dillon-Shore. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 11th day of September at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JULY 17, 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268530-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:Icon National. 1220 Bowdoin Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134.This business is conducted by an individual signed Ryan Keith Hill. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/21/03.
JULY 24, 31, AUG. 7, 14, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268416-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:Pepe Studio. 3285 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jose Huizar. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 16, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/16/03.
JULY 24, 31, AUG. 7, 14, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268400-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:Canyon Promotional Products. 706 6th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Adriann Sue Debits. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 15, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/15/03.
JULY 24, 31, AUG. 7, 14, 2003

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS OR CITATION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE EDITH RIZALDO GORDON VS ROBERT ALEXANDER GORDON

CASE NUMBER: FL038876
Upon reading and filing evidence consisting of a declaration as provided in Section 415.50 CCP by Edith Rinaldo Gordon, and it satisfactorily appearing therefrom that the defendant, respondent, or citee Robert Alexander Gordon, cannot be served with reasonable diligence in any other manner specified in article 3, Chapter 4, Title 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and it also appearing from the verified complaint or petition that a good cause of action exists in this action in favor of the plaintiff, petitioner, or citee therein and against the action or the defendant, respondent, or citee that the party to be served has or claims an interest in, real or personal property in this state that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court or the relief demanded in the action consists wholly or in part in excluding such party from any interest in such property: NOW, on motion of Petitioner in pro per. Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff(s), IT IS ORDERED that the service of said summons or citation in this action be made upon said defendant, respondent, or citee by publication thereof in The Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation published at San Francisco California, hereby designated as the newspaper most likely to give notice to said defendant; that said publication be made at least once a week for four successive weeks. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of said summons or citation and of said complaint or petition in this action be forthwith deposited in the United States Post Office, post-paid, directed to said defendant, respondent, or citee if his address is ascertained before expiration of the time prescribed for the publication of this summons or citation and a declaration of this mailing or of the fact that the address was not ascertained be filed at the expiration of the time prescribed for the publication.
JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Five 50 Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 550 15th Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. Type of license Applied for:
48-ON SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES
JULY 24, 31, AUG. 7, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268519-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:B & B Market. 1600 Sutter Street. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Zhi Yong Zhng. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/21/03.
JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268637-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:Nuts-N-Bolts Graphics. 195 Eureka Street #3, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Dale K. Murphy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 24, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/24/03.
JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0268632-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:Advanced Auto Service. 5635 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Jeffrey Kwan- president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/24/03.
JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO:0235413-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Advanced Autozone. Located at: 5635 Mission Street. This business was conducted by a General Partnership signed Jeffrey Kwan and Sammy Sooltoo. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: October 08, 1999.
JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: CASE NUMBER: CGC-03-417346 NATIONAL CAR RENTAL SYSTEM, INC; DAVID SHANE

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:DAVID LABUA
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons is served on you to file a typewritten response at this court. A letter or phone call will not protect you; your typewritten response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case.

If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case, and your wages, money and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service or a legal aid office (listed in the phone book).

The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of the State of California City and County of San Francisco 400 McAllister Street, First Floor San Francisco, Ca. 94102
The name, address, of plaintiff's attorney, is: Lawrence M. Einhorn Law Office of Lawrence M. Einhorn 6114 Lasalle Avenue #416 Oakland, Ca. 94611
JULY 31, AUG. 7, 14, 21, 2003

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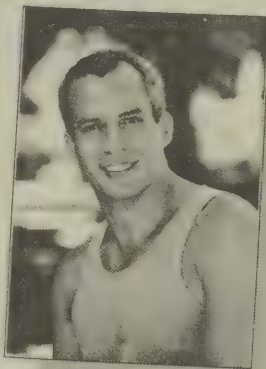
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page 32



Midsummer light
Julia Adam, in Marin,
sets Mendelssohn ballet.
page 31



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 31 • 31 July 2003

Macho, macho men

by Glen Helfand

It's a Man's World: Men's Adventure Magazines, the Postwar Pulp
by Adam Parfrey; Feral House,
\$29.95

How masculine are you? It's a question we have all wondered at one time or another, though the results have varied at times in recent history. In 1954, the manly *Real* magazine ran a *Cosmo*-like quiz skewed toward dudeness with multiple-choice questions such as: "What is your chief sexual outlet? A) women (non-prostitutes) B) prostitutes C) masturbation D) other men." If you answered "D," you get a big Zero in the quest for higher, macho scores. You decide how you'd answer Question #17, "Do you like to wear expensive clothes?"

Even if you do, there is some guilty pleasure to be found in *It's a Man's World*, a coffee-table book where the above text is reprinted, along with covers and art from a genre they call, "Men's Adventure Magazines."

It was a quaintly unapologetic, testosterone-infused literary realm that existed far before political correctness and about the time Hef launched *Playboy*. We're talking publications with names like *American Manhood*, *Rugged Men*, *Climax*, *Sir!*, *Stag*, *For Men Only*, *Man's Day*, *Man to Man*, or simply *Male*. These were cheap rags intended for World War II vets who were scarred by their experiences and needed some kind of outlet for the questionable thrills of blood, guts and hookers in every port they experienced during their surreal days of military service. At least that's one sociological explanation offered by editor Adam Parfrey in his introductory essay.

While Parfrey tosses postmodern references, this glossy book's considerable appeal is in the lurid visuals, of which there are plenty. By concentrating on this as an art book, the cultural implications are side-stepped, an act that perhaps is difficult, as the material has a fetish quality that is often hard to resist, even by more sensitive gay male viewers.

Bursting the seams with full-color images of adventurous men facing cannibal savages, evil Nazis and busty women in chains (or doing the chaining), the book is a fascinating testament to the peculiar butch fantasies men can cook up in the heat of a steamy locker room.

Great escape

The book is a cornucopia of racist, sexist and homoerotic scenarios that are culturally deplorable yet undeniably fascinating as much for the stylistic panache of the artists as for the brashness of their subjects and sensationalistic headlines. They are bubbling mixtures of brave brutes, sadistic "enemies" and naked

page 38 ►



SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Art for heart's sake

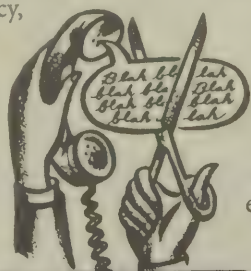
Joys of Chagall, Guston, and the visually-impaired artists of 'Insights'

by Roberto Friedman

Though high summer is traditionally the low season for developments in the art world, you sure wouldn't know it from the past month in San Francisco. Right now you can see world-class retrospectives of the artists **Marc Chagall** and **Philip Guston** at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and a compelling exhibition of work by artists who are blind or visually impaired, at SF City Hall.

The Chagall show is a real coup for SFMOMA, as it's the only venue in the States for this

first comprehensive retrospective of the artist's work in 20 years. To see a Chagall is to be instantly immersed in the artist's visual world of lush color, fancy, and narrative incident. His paintings are full of a *joie de vivre* both odd and miraculous, considering he lived and worked during a pretty grim time in European history. Born in Vitebsk, Russia, in 1887, Chagall lived through pogroms under the tsar, then survived the genocide of the Holocaust. In this light, his



Out There

artistic inspiration in Jewish folklore would seem defiant, were it not the tradition he'd chosen from his earliest years.

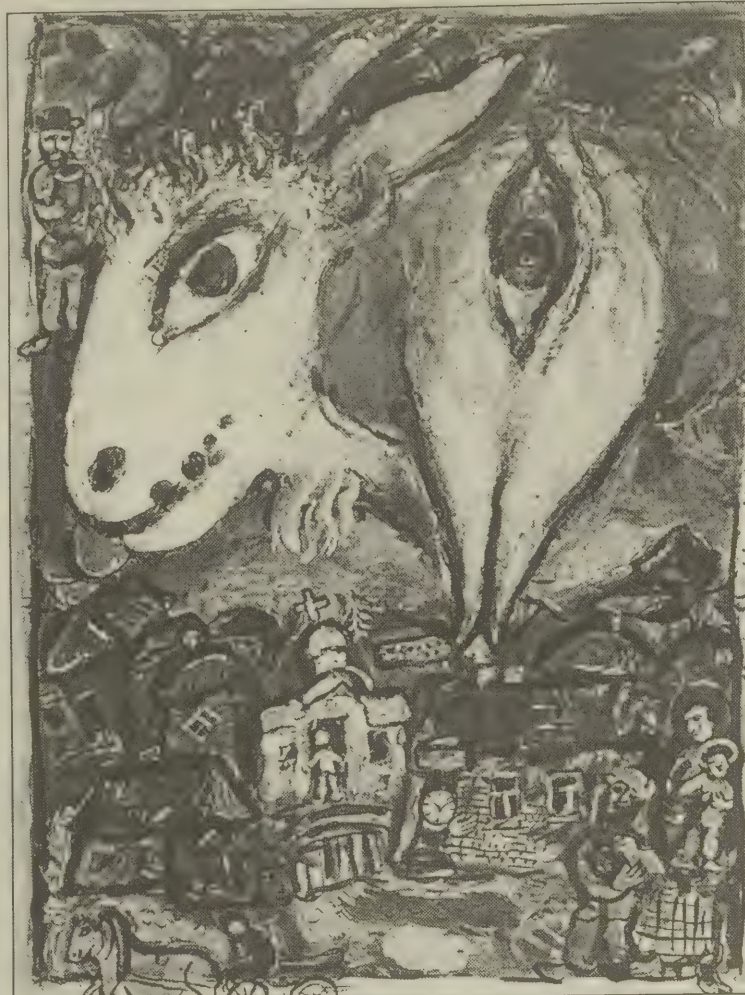
Chagall's granddaughter and grandniece, now middle-aged women, were there for the museum's press preview last week. Present, too, was exhibit curator **Jean-Michel Foray**, the director of the *Musées Nationaux des Alpes-Maritimes*, which include the *Musée National Message Biblique Marc Chagall*. We asked Foray, through an interpreter, if the goats which appear in Chagall's work were symbolic of anything. He explained that in the Russian *shtetl* where Chagall grew up, animals were always underfoot; a chicken might well run through your hovel. So it was only natural that the creatures crop up in his art as well.

Foray told the interpreter to scoot and guided us around the gallery, pointing out the lively menagerie that inhabits Chagall's world: a horse there, a rooster there, eieio! Despite Out There's deficiencies in French and Foray's lean English, we got the idea and were soon merrily exchanging animal names in both languages.

The show fills the museum's fifth floor with 65 paintings, some never before seen in America, and 88 works on paper. Admission to *Marc Chagall* requires a special ticket, for an additional \$5 (museum admission is \$10). To accommodate the expected audience, SFMOMA will be open until 9 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays until the show's end on November 4.

Figure this

One floor down via SFMOMA architect **Mario Botta's** elegant marble staircase, an equally magnificent retrospective takes a tour through American artist **Philip Guston's** groundbreaking oeuvre. More than 100 paintings and drawings lead viewers through Guston's



'The Escape: Rooster and Goat Above the Village,' 1962, by Marc Chagall

creative output over the incredible span of 50 years (1930-80).

Guston made his name with lush, painterly abstractions in the '40s and would have entered art history for them alone. His breakthrough return to figuration (and refusal to leave!) in the late '60s was way ahead of his time, and influenced a generation of younger artists while the art world was still under the spell of the era's dominant abstraction. What **Michael Auping**, chief curator of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, where the show began, calls Guston's "courage of thought," his refusal to live unconsciously, comes through vibrantly in this masterful painting. Maybe not as well-known to the general public as Chagall, Guston's vision is a visual imagination well worth getting to know. Through September 28 at SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. Info: sfmoma.org or (415) 357-4000.

True vision

Artists tend to have a way of finding out where their gifts lead — a creative curiosity, no matter what the obstacles. That a visual impairment may be part of the mix is part of the revelation of *Insights*, a juried art exhibition at SF City Hall presented by **Rose Resnick** LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, now on display for the 14th year.

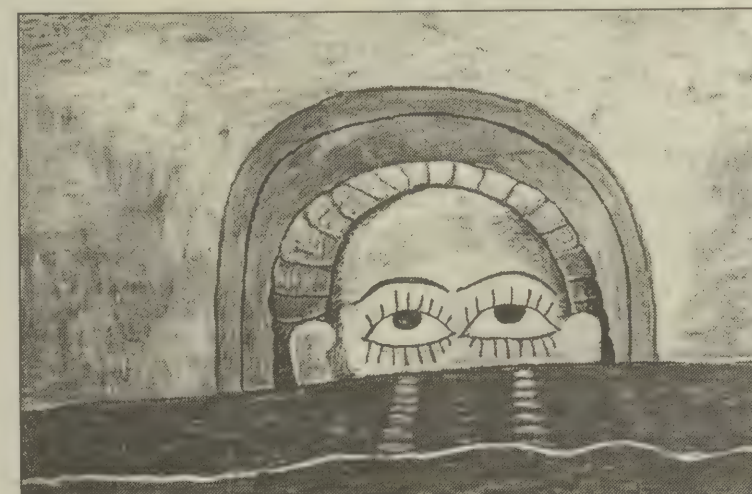
We went to the public reception for the show of 26 painters, sculptors, fabric artists, photographers and mixed-media artists who are blind or visually impaired, presented in collaboration with the SF Arts Commission Gallery in City Hall's lower level. The artwork is elucidated and enhanced by accompanying artists' statements.

Impressive is the range of media these artists employ, everything from tactile constructions to architectural renderings. Awardee photographer **Pete Eckert**

page 33 ►



Touchable print by Pete Eckert



'Source,' 1976, by Philip Guston

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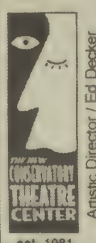
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Julia Adam sets 'Midsummer's Night Dream' on Marin Ballet

by Stephanie von Buchau

New York dance critic once said to me, "Everybody talks about musicality in dance, but most of them wouldn't know it if it sneaked up and bit them in the butt."

We were discussing Mark Morris, the most musical choreographer of his generation, who had been trashed by *The New York Times* for the "crime" of what they called "following the score too closely."

Granted, musicality is easier to observe than to describe. I remember the first time I saw Julia Adam's *Night* at San Francisco Ballet. As this unique work unfolded, my companion, who is not a musician and knows nothing technically about dance or choreography, kept making a series of little affirmative noises. And she was not alone. Whenever Adam pulled off a moment that denoted the music — a fabulous commissioned score by Matthew Pierce — everybody in the War Memorial knew it.

Last season, during Adam's *imaginal disc*, also to a commissioned score by Pierce, there was a moment (later repeated to even more devastating effect) when

Leslie Young was being swirled in a circle by her partner and, at a musical climax, she suddenly let her arms float out from her body, giving the effect of flight. It was the kind of moment in dance when music and gesture so reinforce each other that the viewer literally gasps.

If you were there, you know what I'm talking about. If not, you'll just have to take my word until you see for yourself that Julia Adam is one of the most musical young choreographers now at work. After 15-16 pieces of dance (even she's not sure of the exact number), she's made a name for herself as a creator of ballets that instantly connect with viewers. Her latest work, to be premiered August 2 at the College of Marin Fine Arts Theater in Kentfield, is *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, after Shakespeare to the incidental music by Mendelssohn.

"And let me tell you," the choreographer laughs during a phone interview, "that wedding march is hard." She'll figure it out, as she has already decided that the work needs to be done as a comedy. She's setting it on the Marin Ballet, which is essentially a school rather than a professional company. Its artistic director, Cynthia Lucas, commissioned



Julia Adam, center, instructs members of the Marin Ballet in her setting of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Adam to make a piece that would employ the young ladies ages 11-17 that populate the intermediate level of the school.

"Boys are always difficult to find at that age," Adam says, explaining why she has invited three "ringers" from ODC. "These guys

page 36 ►

Contemporary excitement

Blood, bliss at 2003 Cabrillo Music Fest

by Jason Serinus

Santa Cruz's annual Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music launches another 10 mouth-watering days and nights of music-making on August 1. Since the Festival's founding in 1963 by the late, great gay composer Lou Harrison, it has presented no fewer than 77 world premieres, 49 US premieres, and 75 West Coast premieres. Currently directed by Marin Alsop, perhaps the finest female conductor on today's scene, the festival promises public appearances by most of the featured composers.

Thanks to Alsop's visionary programming, the Festival opens Friday, August 1 with *Blood, Sweat & Tears*, a Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium evening highlighted by the Pulitzer Prize-winning gay composer David Del Tredici's *Dracula*. A setting of Alfred Corn's poem "My Neighbor, the Distinguished Count," the performance features the extraordinary soprano Hila Plitmann (heard on Del Tredici's outstanding *Secret Music* disc on CRI) and 13 instruments, including a theremin, an early electronic instrument whose eerie tones were featured in many early Hollywood mystery films. The concert also includes the West Coast premiere of Michael Daugherty's just-completed *Fire and Blood* Concerto for violin and orchestra, a 25-minute, four-part musical depiction of Diego Rivera's famed murals of Detroit's automobile industry; and the world premiere of Emily Wong's *Structures III* for orchestra.

Blood, Sweat & Tears transmogrifies into Saturday night's *Monsters in the Park*, as wildman HK Gruber's *Frankenstein*, a "pande-



Lou Harrison founded Cabrillo fest.

monium for chansonier and orchestra," shares the stage with Daugherty's *Rosa Parks Boulevard*, a tribute to the woman who refused to sit in the back of the bus; the West Coast premiere of Michael Hersch's *Symphony No. 2*; and Wladyslaw Szpilman's *Ballet Scene*. BAR readers are undoubtedly familiar with Szpilman from his recent depiction in Roman Polanski's Oscar-winning movie, *The Pianist*.

Let down your hair

After two nights of blood-letting, audiences will celebrate the life of the late Lou Harrison with a Sunday night tribute that features his *Grand Duo* for Violin and Piano, *Concerto in Slendro*, and an aria from his early 12-tone opera *Rapunzel*. Gorgeously-voiced baritone Sanford Sylvan will perform the aria, which he initially delivered two years ago when the Festival last presented the opera in its entirety. Lest the notion of an atonal opera by a composer most frequently lauded for his tuneful fusion of Eastern and Western tra-

ditions sound forbidding, it should be noted that the third-act prayer scene from this atmospheric opera won Harrison a Masterpiece Award at the 1954 International Conference of Contemporary Music in Rome when, upon the recommendation of Samuel Barber, he engaged a young Leontyne Price to perform it.

The second weekend of concerts off its monsters while retaining hands equally bloody from applause. Friday night, 8/8, brings pianist Christopher O'Riley playing *Radiohead Transcribed*, music heard on his recent Sony CD release. O'Riley returns Saturday, 8/9, as soloist in *The A Team*, an evening of four works by Berkeley's Pulitzer Prize-winning John Adams and England's mind-blowing genius, Thomas Adès. With only 900 seats available, this concert, which includes two West Coast premieres, will surely sell out.

Sunday afternoon and evening, the Festival concludes in the extraordinary intimate acoustic of Mission San Juan Bautista. Those in prime seats will discover notes hurtling at them in successive tidal waves, as the *Island of Innocence* program features Alsop and soloist O'Riley in three West Coast premieres: Augusta Read Thomas' *Prayer Bells*, Richard Danielpour's *Metamorphosis*, and Rome Prize winner Kevin Puts' *Symphony No. 2: Island of Innocence*.

Puts' creation, which moves from darkness to glimmers of hope, is but one of countless works inspired by 9/11, and the Bush Administration's opportunity to transform a ruthless bloodbath into an intolerable assault on civil liberties, minorities, and mindfulness. ▼

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Going deep inside Radiohead

Pianist Christopher O'Riley enlarges the canon

by Tim Pfaff

For all the good pianists around, there's little enough interesting music being made. Even with astounding new talents heaping fresh ideas on them, the classic piano literature can seem a claustrophobic canon when so little new music of interest is being written for the instrument. For many classical music aficionados, this writer included, piano music is home, with all the comforts and discomforts the word entails. So it's gratifying when some enterprising pianist adds a spacious new room, as Christopher O'Riley has so compellingly with *True Love Waits* (Sony/Odissey), his enthralling new CD of his own versions of 15 Radiohead songs.

Some things need saying up front. This is not crossover music, and, more importantly, this is not rock. It's likely to infuriate more than a few Radiohead heads, who are sure to find it far too easy on the ears to be in other ways consonant with the band's uncompromising ethos. People looking for bones to pick will find plenty to grouse about. That said, judging from what has appeared in print to date, many fans who hold the band in the same regard as O'Riley (who recently told the *Chron*, "Radiohead is the only music I listen to. Period.") seem to think the pianist's versions are swell. Disgruntled heads can go

back to their drugs of choice as long as they leave me to my mine, O'Riley's *True Love Waits*.

These are not "transcriptions" of Radiohead songs, but new music drawn from them. They fall in a long musical tradition the classically trained O'Riley both knows and exploits in the best sense of that word. In addition to the ways countless "classical" composers have drawn on popular music for their own compositions, there is a corollary tradition of piano pieces that work as what Liszt called "meditations" and "reminiscences" on the music of others, which is what's going on here.

A pianist literally to his toes, O'Riley makes no attempt to mimic the band's trademark sound, which is inimical to the Steinway. He takes the bolder step of going deep inside the tunes, extracting their musical essences, exploring expressly pianistic ways to realize them, and then making the pieces his own, the deepest form of tribute. Fewer people question it when jazz pianist Brad Mehldau riffs on Radiohead music (although jazz purists can be as shocked at the "slumming" as their counterparts in the classical piano world), because listeners know better than to think of a jazz artist's take on a song as a mere "cover." They give classical pianists less leash. Good for O'Riley for playing off-leash.

Precisely because the piano denies him the chance to mimic the

creepy, claustrophobic, deliberately canned sound of the band, O'Riley has had to find his own ways to play them. Although the music and the playing are unrelentingly beautiful in the standard sense of the term, they do capture the music's complexity, with particular acuity at the rhythmic level. There are scads of notes in a piece like "Thinking of You," and there's no reason to doubt the pianist's assertion that this is now the hardest music in his repertoire. Period. More impressively, they are arrayed along a rhythmic grid only an atomic clock could chart, and the supreme rightness about how each note falls, and sounds, is astonishing.

He tackles some of the tougher songs, like the opening "Every-thing in its Right Place," with a

sense of unrelenting *moto perpetuo* over an equally unyielding dynamic arc. "You" is a toccata that attains an almost savage intensity at its peak. Perhaps the surest sign that something altogether out of the ordinary is happening is that it's the shorter numbers that feel long, and the longer ones that seem to suspend, even vanquish time.

Still, the songs that elicit O'Riley's deepest responses have a tenderness at their core that is discernible in the originals but even more bravely explored by O'Riley. The final four stand alongside late Brahms and early Bill Evans in my musical pantheon.

Fine as they are, O'Riley's previous CDs have not attained the heights of his risky, artistically naked live playing. These studio



O'Riley is a pianist down to his toes.

reminiscences of fundamentally studio music create a new musical element on the periodic table, and not a beat too soon. For those of us who have both deeply admired O'Riley's musicianship and intermittently fretted about his career, this marks a destination well worth the wait. The title track says it all. ▼

Men who sing from the heart

Golden Gate Men's Chorus summer concert

by Jason Serinus

The Golden Gate Men's Chorus, most of whose 46 members are gay, presents its summer concert Sunday afternoon, August 3. Entitled *Gathering: A Collection of World Songs*, the program repeats Tuesday night, Au-

gust 12. Given the refined quality of the singing on the Chorus' new CD, *Mass*, which features Josef Rheinberger's *Mass in B-flat* and Maurice Duruflé's *Messe Cum Jubilo*, audiences are in for a treat.

Vocal excellence should come as no surprise to those familiar with the history of the GGMC. Founded in 1982 by Dick Kramer, who also founded the SF Gay Men's Chorus, the chorus has been directed since 1996 by Joseph Jennings, whose other all-boy group, Chanticleer, consistently receives international accolades.

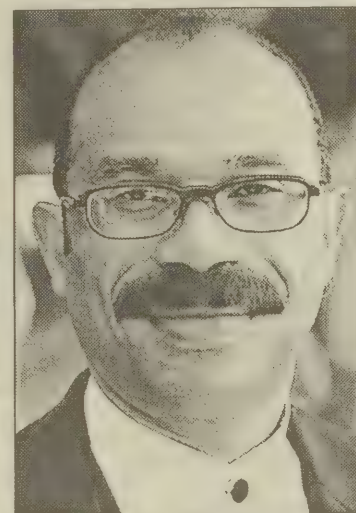
Why does Jennings choose to direct an amateur singing group when his hands are already full from work with a full-time professional men's touring ensemble? Jennings told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he works with the all-volunteer GGMC because he enjoys music-making with them, finding it very fulfilling socially and artistically.

"The Chorus sings quite musically; they have a very lovely sound. The members sing from their hearts, and they're quite sincere about it. Yes, we have fun doing it, but it's more than fun; it's a fellowship of brothers and friends who come together united by something we love to do. We love doing concerts, but we do more — coming together weekly and sharing time, we come away with a great sense of camaraderie that takes us through the week."

The GGMC's forthcoming program in fact consists of a "director's cut" collection of songs that Jennings wanted to hear the group perform. Eclectic to the core, the diverse repertoire ranges from Russians hymns of blessing to an Irish folk tune, South African freedom songs, and European fare by Mendelssohn and gay French composers Francis Poulenc and Camille Saint-Saëns.

Discussing the concert repertoire, Jennings told the *Bay Area Reporter* that while Poulenc's *Four Prayers for St. Assisi* are quite well known, the program's less familiar *Prayers of St. Anthony of Padua* are "just as beautiful." Such soulful music, including two rarely heard choral works by Mendelssohn, will prove quite a contrast to Saint-Saëns' carnival-like "Saltarelle."

The program's Georgian pieces are based in the Russian folk tra-



Joseph Jennings: doubly fulfilling

dition, while Nikolai Golovanov's "Dostóyno yest" "sounds very much like the music frequently performed by Russian male choirs." Both the Poulenc and South African Peter Louis Van Dij's "Horizons" are slated for performance by Counterpoint, a 16-member subgroup of the larger chorus.

The concert also features a piece by Randall Thompson, songs from the British Isles, and a couple of pieces from South Africa. They will lead into two or three Beatles songs: "Tomorrow Never Knows," "The Long and Winding Road," and maybe "Hey Jude," all in arrangements by Jennings. Chorus members are clearly quick learners, because Jennings was still in the process of choosing the Beatles pieces two weeks before the concert.

"We're able to give performances that are of the quality that nourishes and fulfills people who attend. These are amateur singers who love performing because they love the community and they love humanity; it all comes together at that point."

The GGMC will hold auditions during the third weekend of August. Complete information can be found at www.ggmc.org. ▼

The GGMC performs at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore St., on Sunday, August 3, 4 p.m., and Tuesday, August 12, 8 p.m. Tickets at A Different Light Bookstore, ggmc.org, or (415) 668.GGMC.

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American dreams & nightmares

Isis Arts Collective's 'Summer Shorts'

by Richard Dodds

Say this for George W. Bush. His Presidency is reawakening the kind of overtly political theater that had lately been in hibernation. A current example is the Isis Arts Collective production of *Summer Shorts*, an annual one-act collection that now comes with a soapbox. Unfortunately, the soapbox is used to diminishing returns and increasing stridency over the two-hour-and-45-minute production.

Anna Budd's *Odd Scraps from an Extinguished America* opens the show and sets the tone as three future archeologists (Shaun Landry, Leo Lawhorn, and Micaele Ellswythe) explore the remnants of a lost civilization. It starts off amusingly, as the explorers try to make some grand sense from an advertising flyer they have found. But in each of six subsequent "scraps" interspersed among the other plays, the tone turns to Bush-bashing of such an obvious sort as to become counterproductive.

Mike Ward, one of three directors, has assembled the playlets, and each act ends with a heavy-duty piece about life in an unnamed totalitarian society. Ward's own piece, *Thought: Crime*, ends the first act with a scene of chained prisoners receiving an electric shock whenever they use a proscribed word. The piece has some intriguingly ironic elements, such as the vocal equivalent of a smiley face heard regularly on the prison loudspeaker, but there isn't much illuminated beyond the basic setup.

But Ward's piece is a logical

counterpart to *Mountain Language*, Harold Pinter's 20-minute play about desperate relatives visiting political prisoners in a Fascist state where all regional languages have been banned. As directed by Robert A. Zick, it seems a choppy piece partly undermined by a bad sound design that can leave important voiceovers incomprehensible.

Not everything in *Summer Shorts* is grimly political. Dawson Moore's *Living with the Savage*, directed by Ward, is an entertaining satire about a blueblood divorcee (a haughtily proper Ann Kuchins) who orders a genuine jungle savage (Travis Bedard) from a travel magazine to be her consort. Her uptight, upper-crust children (the amusingly lock-jawed Sarah Mitchell and Chris Symonds) are not amused.

Another of the lighter-hearted pieces is G. William Zorn's *Connecting*, a fresh take on computer dating and spam which comes scarily to life in the form of Shaun Landry and Daniel Weiss. In the play, directed by Landry, a lovelorn computer surfer (the boyishly appealing W. Jay Moore) is electronically cruised by a tempting mystery man (Brad Cooreman).

Lovers' lane

Real-life relationships are the stuff of Tom W. Kelly's *Roadside Assistance*, a short play directed by Ward that looks at the still often-uncharted waters that gay men must navigate. In this case, the subjects are two long-term lovers (intensely played by Leo Lawhorn and Travis Bedard) who must deal with loss of passion in their relationship and an auxiliary lover who satisfies the sexual needs of

one of the men. It's a thoughtful look at how male-male relationships differ, perhaps genetically, from male-female relationships, though an easy out is found by inflicting one corner of the triangle with a serious illness.

Filling out the bill is Aloise Startford's *Talk*, a look at a marriage coming apart, and Daniel Weiss' *Excuse Me, Sir*, an almost-monologue about a ballistic movie theater manager (an enthusiastic Travis Bedard) dealing with, he thinks, a homeless man.

Summer Shorts: Crossed Wires, to give its full name, is a hodgepodge with a theme. The basis of that theme is the extinction of America the beautiful, and while moments of frivolity and affection can arise, this is a *Summer of discontent*. ▼

Summer Shorts: Crossed Wires will run at the Exit Theatre through Aug. 16. Tickets are \$20. Call (877) 838-7601.



W. Jay Moore in *Connecting*

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Out There

◀ page 30

writes, "I see in my mind's eye using the information gathered by my other senses. My memory of an event and my knowledge of the photographic process give me a clear view of what I have produced." There's plenty here to inspire everyone, sighted or not.

At the reception, Rose Resnick LightHouse for the Blind Associate Executive Director **Scott Duncan** announced his attempt to be the first legally blind person ever to attempt a complete circumnavigation of the world by sail, solo. The opening also happened to be on the occasion of Duncan's 37th birthday.

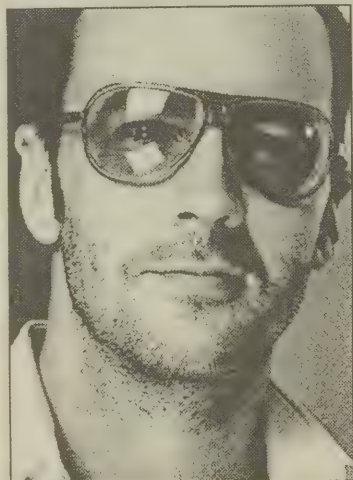
Insights runs through Sept. 7 at SF City Hall. Audio-described tours for the visually impaired are available, and admission is free.

Pudendas real and imagined

New York magazine gets up-close and personal with fashion designer **Tom Ford** in a dishy Q&A. "I've seen photographs of you in front of a series of large female nudes," says writer **Daisy Garnett** to Ford. She means paintings.

"That's **Warhol**," Ford replies. "I have his male version, too. Penises are harder to hang, though." Hmmm, a veritable conundrum.

"But in the same room as those Warhol nudes, I have these amazing **Ellsworth Kelly** paintings of slits," Ford goes on. "So that room has become a themed room. It's the vagina room." Hey, Tom: TMI



Is there a Ford in your future?

— too much information!

Daisy plods on. "What about real vaginas? Did you ever have girlfriends?"

Ford: "Yes, yes, absolutely. And I liked it and I liked them, but I prefer men. And I've been with my partner [Vogue Hommes International editor **Richard Buckley**] for 17 years." Finally, the topic turns from vaginas.

But on similar terrain, the NY Post's Page Six column leads with the startling news that *Bad Boys II* actor **Yul Vazquez** "was shooting a scene for which everyone had to change pants, so he went off to the trailer. When he came back, everyone asked why he'd gone to the trailer, since they all changed on the spot. Vazquez had to admit he doesn't wear underpants. 'Ever?' his female companion asked. 'Ever,' he replied. 'Remind me never to borrow pants from you,' she cracked." Appropriate verb. Put our name on that list! ▼

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Queer eye for the straight lie

by Victoria A. Brownworth

There's so much mind-bending news on the tube these days, it's no wonder we're all fleeing into the arms of reality TV. With Liberia and North Korea on the verge of exploding, Iraqgate competing with 9-11gate to be the what-did-they-know/when-did-they-know-it Beltway scandal of the moment, and the economy continuing to bottom out despite those tax-cut checks to Dick Cheney's friends, who wouldn't want some kind of respite? Then the morning shows keep telling us how fattening all those cooling ice-cream treats are (check out GMA at ABCnews.com for the skinny on just what you *can't* put in your mouth this summer). What are we to do to take our minds off that nagging feeling that the end of the world is nigh?

The best treat you could give yourself is an episode of *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*. We admit we thought this was the most bizarre idea for a reality show we'd heard: Five super queens set



Fab Five do the Abbey Road thing.

out to makeover schlubby straight guys, top to bottom. Who, we asked in our last column, is the audience for this show?

If ratings are to be believed, *everyone*. The debut episode of *Queer Eye* was the highest rated show ever on Bravo. Ever. We can totally see why. The queens are spectacular, smart, chic, savvy—all the best gay stereotypes. The music is disco to die for. The graphics are *tres* cool. And though they have their "Just Jack" vicious queen moments, the Fab 5 are really very charming and sweet to these straight guys who just want their

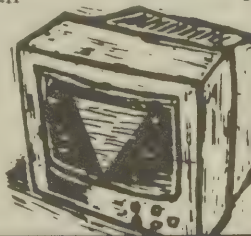
lives to have a little more *chi-ching* in them. It's very good-natured.

Plus they deliver. The ratty little hell-hole apartments are remade to look fantastic; the terrible, lank long hair gets highlights; the bad clothes get changed just enough so that the guy is still himself, but a tad more roughly chic. It's a half-hour of therapy that makes you feel really good. And they tell you how to do it yourselves.

Everybody will be talking about the other queer debut (also on Bravo), *Boy Meets Boy*. Let's see who James chooses. We don't like the fact that if he picks one of the straight guys, the straight guy gets the \$25,000 prize, but stay tuned. The possibility always exists that the hets will come out.

Speaking of straight boys coming out, isn't it time for Jack Osbourne to realize his true baby-bear potential and stop playing with girls and voyeurism? After

watching him co-host the always terrible *Jimmy Kimmel Live* last week, where he ran rings around the irksome and ever-homophobic Kimmel, we would love to see him break out into his true queer self. We really can't imagine why, with plummeting ratings, MTV has re-upped *The Osbournes* for another season. The 15 minutes of bleeped-out expletives is done. Stick a fork in it, and give Jack his own show for delinquent Q youth.



Lavender Tube

The real thing

ABC still has us bummed over the turn *All My Children* has taken with Bianca and Lena. We *feel* Bianca: she's a real lesbian, not a fake-for-TV consumption. But she was raped two weeks ago by the family nemesis, Michael Canbius, who also tried to rape her mother Erica, sister Kendall, and lover Lena, and the storyline has gone from disturbing to downright horrifying.

Bianca (Eden Riegel better get

an Emmy this time around; her performance just gets more layered and nuanced) doesn't just imagine her rapist is stalking her, he *is* stalking her. Everyone has reached out to Bianca, who is shell-shocked; they know something is wrong, but she won't reveal. In the last episode before presstime, Bianca was forced to tell Erica and Kendall something to explain her bizarre behavior. She said she had broken up with Lena.

In last week's issue of *Soap Opera Digest*, the major industry organ, Bianca and Lena were the fans' #1 choice for best couple on an ABC soap. Non-soap fans must understand that this is big, this is *acceptance*. To paraphrase Sally Field, they like them, they really, really like them.

We get the importance of telling a rape storyline, but worried it would lead to the sundering of Bianca and Lena's relationship, which seems to be happening. How long can Lena fight for a lover who keeps turning her down? And how much torture can Bianca stand? When last we saw her, she was getting drunk in a biker bar where the men thought she was coming on to them. Are the writers going to rape her again? Riegel has been doing public service announcements for rape victims after every show. "Don't be like Bianca. Tell someone if you've been sexually assaulted." The national hotline number is 1 (800) 656-HOPE. It's the only good thing to come out of this storyline, so pass it on.

Port in a storm

We've been getting a lot of mail about the proposed cancellation of our favorite soap, *Port Charles*. First *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer* ends, now our other fave vampire show? To protest the cancellation, write ABC. It worked for *Days of Our Lives* on NBC, so it's worth the time if you love the show, as we do.

Alas, nothing will help Nathan Lane, whose queer sitcom *Charlie Lawrence* bombed two episodes out of the gate, which is exactly how many weeks we gave it. Sadly for Lane, who is just superb, and for his solid co-stars like Laurie Metcalf, the show's writing wasn't up to its cast. It was the Bette Midler show all over again. CBS just can't do gay. Just ask Ellen DeGeneres. The show may be reworked, but don't count on it. It's hard to fail in summer, when there's nothing new on the air. It usually means no hope of resurrection.

Finally, in case Bravo or even ABC leads one to believe that Middle America is embracing the queer sensibility, the July 25 episode of *Nightline* (catch it at ABCnews.com if you missed it) helped with that delusion. Titled "Father Raymond," it traced what happened to the pastor of Sacred Heart parish in Indianapolis when he came out to his parishioners. The interviewer, one of ABC's best, African American reporter and commentator Michele Martin, asked hard questions of both Father Raymond and his parishioners.

The issue divided the parish and the archdiocese, and finally Father Raymond, a 40-something priest with a red beard and a passion for social justice issues including gay rights, resigned from the parish and took a sabbatical.

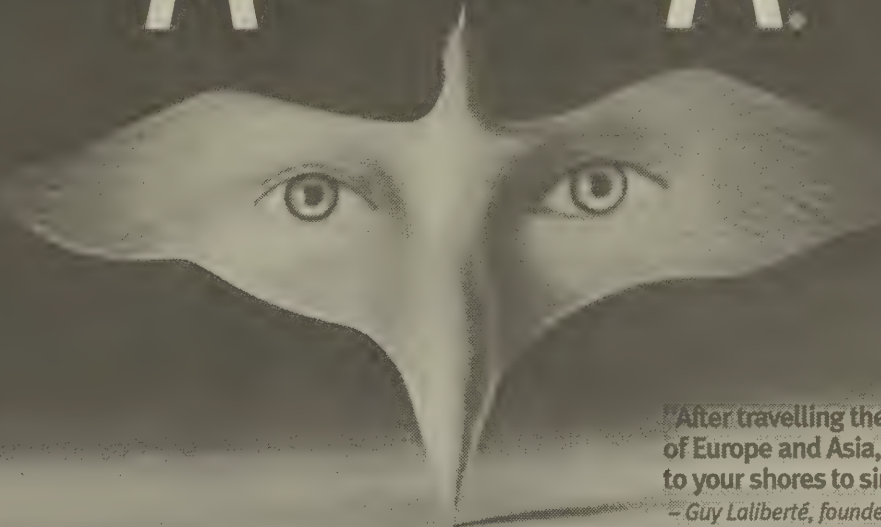
The provocative tale reaffirmed the gay/straight schism in America for anyone who has forgotten that it's one thing to watch a TV show about queers, but few want

next page ►

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Beyond rinse and spit

'The Secret Lives of Dentists' opens wide

by David Lample

Teeth outlast everything. Death is nothing to a tooth. Hundreds of years in acidic soil just keep teeth clean. Life is what destroys teeth."

When you think about it, it's amazing there aren't more movies about dentists. You're strapped in, sedated, helpless, and some guy gets to crawl around inside your mouth, rip things out and put them back the way he sees fit. Forget about *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, the dentist is the ultimate makeover artist.

Remember Laurence Olivier as the Nazi dentist who keeps jabbing into Dustin Hoffman's untidy mouth, asking, "Is it safe?" Safe for what? It didn't matter, every time *Marathon Man* comes on TV, I feel like I'm back in that chair, waiting for the next jolt of pain. Steve Martin has never been funnier than as the sadistic, motorcycle-riding dentist in *Little Shop of Horrors*. It helps that patient Bill Mur-

ray plays the homoerotic subtext to the nines: here's the ultimate masochist, who wants all the pain. Martin's fury is palpable in his scene-climaxing line, "Spit!"

Campbell Scott has made a career of decorating the sets of the kind of high-minded movies that you're supposed to like much more than you really do — *Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle*, *The Moderns*, movies that are so *Masterpiece Theatre*-like in their noble intentions that they make you want to vomit.

There's a whole lot of vomiting in Scott's latest film for director Alan Rudolph, *The Secret Lives of Dentists* (the screenplay, by Craig Lucas, is based on *The Age of Grief*, a novella by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jane Smiley). The upchuck factor may itself account for why I enjoyed Scott's performance so much.

Scott plays David Hurst, a man who married his college sweetheart, Dana (Hope Davis), with whom he shares both a dental practice and an overstuffed family life, including three rambunc-

tious pre-teen daughters.

One night, quite by accident, Hurst learns something he'd really rather not know. "I am 38 years old, and it seems to me that I've arrived at the age of grief. My wife is seeing another man, and I don't kick her out of the house. She doesn't kick me out."

Twin gays

Writer Lucas is gay, and director Rudolph might as well be (who else but a gay director would cast Keith Carradine as the elusive, overly pretty boy/man, a role that others would have reserved for Tom Cruise?) This twin gay sensibility gives a wickedly odd angle to a dark satirical examination, almost autopsy, of a modern heterosexual marriage. Scott's Hurst spends half the movie pondering the darkest fates for his wife.

In the book, Scott's character has a running internal monologue about the pitfalls of modern marriage, as well as the specifically nasty fates he has in mind for his wife. "On TV, they always make



Campbell Scott (center) shares both his dental practice and his family.

dentists out to be prissy and compulsive. If they find out their wives are in love with someone else, they learn who it is, and they kill them both, using sophisticated dental equipment."

Lucas' major innovation to Smiley's story is to give those lines to a minor character, a whiny dental patient, recast as Hurst's dark side, the alter-ego who vents all the spleen that we crave but can't stomach in our hero.

Comedian/actor Denis Leary is perfect as the patient, Slater, and Rudolph is clever at not calling attention to the metamorphosis of Leary from flesh-and-blood character to a diabolical chorus in Hurst's head, especially when he pops up as the unseen guest at the

family dinner table.

Scott's buttoned-down, taciturn dentist, who can't actually voice his feelings to his wife, becomes a perfect vehicle for some delicious fantasy scenes where Hurst imagines his wife engaging in lurid sexual trysts, such as a threesome with both male and female dental technicians.

In an age where queer people are finally gaining access to the sacred marriage bed, it's timely to see a great movie made by queers where straight characters are used as props for reimagining how modern marriage might be made into something other than an instrument of medieval torture. It's a miracle you might compare to the invention of painless dentistry. ▼

Looking for love in Slovakia

by David Nahmod

Hannah and Her Brothers (2000) by Vladimir Adasek; Slovak, with English titles; DVD, \$29.95

It's an absolute joy to pop a movie into the DVD player and watch a film in which the two gay characters are the only normal ones. OK, I know, what's normal? Well, one could argue that normality is the ability to engage in conversation without screaming hysterically.

Poor Martin (Martin Keder) is like a fish out of water in his own home. His parents and his very large extended family seem to do nothing but scream at each other all day and deep into the night. The very subdued Martin is the only family member who doesn't have much to say. He appears to be suffocating.

"I don't know whether I like girls or boys," he confides to a friend. In the midst of this hysteria, he quietly sets out to find himself.

And thus unfolds the simple tale of *Hannah and Her Brothers*, a newly released and possibly first gay title from the Republic of Slovakia. It's a fascinating work, coming from a country that was held prisoner by communist rule until a few short years ago. The film affords us a peek inside a society whose gay community, like Martin, is still in search of itself.

Parts of the film can be hard to take. The screaming among Martin's relatives is truly a loud, non-stop affair, and can be grating. But Martin is such a sympathetic character that the film itself be-



comes likable. Martin yearns to know who he is, and wants to be loved. He's so cute and sweet that the viewer cannot help but love him.

With the help of a friend, he places a personal ad looking for "others like me," and gets the usual responses from kooks and married closet cases. What he fails to see, right before his eyes, is the handsome "older" 30ish gentleman he runs into from time to time, who is clearly in love with him. Their few brief scenes together are the film's only quiet moments, as they are the only characters that do not scream their lines at each other.

Hannah and Her Brothers (the title is the name of the local gay bar) is an unusual and refreshing film. Keder does a wonderful job conveying a young man's anguish over coming out in a society that probably won't accept him. Marta Kuchova is delightful as Theodora, the neighbor who befriends and accepts Martin as he is. In the film's best scene, she and Martin

sit in a café while she loudly reads him some of the rather graphic responses to his personal ad. When asked to leave by the cafe owner, she refuses, slapping the table with her hand. Best described as a drag queen trapped in a woman's body, the very eccentric and flamboyant Theodora is the friend we all wished we'd had when we were young.

Water Bearer Films presents *Hannah* in full-screen format, with clear, easy-to-read subtitles. Other than chapter search, there are no extras of any kind. ▼

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their son or daughter to marry one. Rev. Pat Robertson may be perceived as a fringe character with his vendetta against the US Supreme Court over the sodomy ruling, but in listening to the working-class parishioners of Sa-

cred Heart, it was obvious that anti-queer sentiment remains the last acceptable bigotry in America.

Revel in *Queer Eye* and keep monitoring AMC and *Boy Meets Boy*. Today, queers represent a lucrative niche market, but tomorrow we could just as easily be on the margins with Father Raymond. That's the peril of having no legal rights. So make sure you stay tuned. ▼

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Angelina Jolie busts out all over

She's been enhanced for 'Tomb Raider 2'

by Tim Nasson

Angelina! Add another celebrity to the list of those who need only go by one name. After a spat with her father, actor Jon Voight, she dropped her surname, Voight, and changed it legally to Angelina Jolie.

I had a chance to sit down with Angelina at Essex House on Central Park South before *Lara Croft, Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life* came out. Since the last time I interviewed Jolie, for the original *Tomb Raider*, her lips seem to have returned to their normal size. They're no longer the swollen, bee-stung lips of two

years ago. Could a divorce, an adopted child and age have something to do with her toning down?

"I love flaws on people," she says. "When I see the face of a person changing, getting older, a new wrinkle, a new spot, I love it. It turns me on. I personally am not into plastic surgery, but I have nothing against anyone who chooses to use it to enhance their looks or self-esteem."

"The only thing I have enhanced in the movie," she says, laughing, "are my boobs."

There are many special effects in this Jan De Bont female action film, and among the biggest are her enhanced breasts. "I am a size 36C in real life," she says. "But I

get to be a 38D as Lara. You gotta love those computer effects guys. Too bad it's not that easy to make them bigger in real life. It certainly would make it less painful for all of the millions of women who choose to get boob jobs!"

While *Tomb Raider* was a success at the box office, many critics were disappointed with the storyline. "I only signed on to the sequel after being given the opportunity to look at the script and suggest certain changes in it and in Lara Croft's character. The story this time deals much more in reality than fantasy. Lara is more of a real woman in the sequel than the videogame character she was in the original. She has depth, a real body, not a completely cartoon-looking one, ideas and fashion sense. She is not just running around trying to save the world."

But save the world is what Lara Croft does in *Tomb Raider 2*. The locales in the sequel, and the way they are brought to the screen in all their beauty, are amazing. Among the places that the cast jetted off to for stunts and thrills: Hong Kong, Greece, Kenya, Tanzania, and a fake set of the Great Wall of China.

Sleeping beasts

"I am an adrenaline junkie," says Jolie. "I loved Africa. Since I was shooting 16 or more hours a day, I didn't have all that much time to spend with [her two-year-old son] Maddox during the day. At lunch, if I was lucky, I would get to spend a half-hour with him. But at night, after filming, was when the fun began. I would take him out with a driver and a jeep, and we would search for sleeping animals. We saw lions, elephants. We would be pointing the flashlight all over, looking for anything we could find. It was so thrilling."

Was she ever worried that a sleeping lioness would wake up and charge the car, eating them for a late-night snack? "Not really," she admits. "Our driver was good, and the jeep was faster than any lioness. I think the driver even had a shotgun on hand!"

Time has changed Jolie. She has divorced Academy Award-winning actor, screenwriter, director and former co-kook Billy Bob Thornton. While she didn't go into details about the breakup, one of the main reasons seems to be her newfound role as mother. "I take being a mother seriously," she says. "I adopted Maddox after working on the first *Tomb Raider* in Cambodia and getting to know a lot of Cambodians in need. I know I can't save every child, but you can't begin to help without starting somewhere. In my heart, I know I am doing the right thing,



Jolie and her digitally enhanced bust jet-ski deliriously in her new movie.

and I want to do it. I love Maddox. Adopting him has changed me as a person. I never had a great family life, and I want to provide him with the best one imaginable."

She has bought a farm and an animal refuge in Cambodia: rice paddies, huts, and all. "While I consider London my home, Cambodia is my second home and a place that I go with Maddox in order to raise him among the people he was born with. I want him to be proud of his heritage, and I also want to do as much as I can to help the country, beginning with the farm. The people in the village where I have my property are among the nicest, kindest and most gentle people in the world, even amidst the poverty."

Jolie, who won the 2000 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in *Girl, Interrupted*, can do both artistic roles such as HBO's *Gia*, which earned her two Best Actress Golden Globe Awards, as well as blockbuster, action films, which earn her huge paychecks instead of awards. For the first *Tomb Raider*, Jolie made \$7 million. The sequel put \$12 million more in her bank account.

Jolie is set to open in another Academy Award-caliber film, *Beyond Borders*, in late October. The

film tells the story of a romance between a medical student turned international disaster relief worker (Clive Owen) and a philanthropist socialite (Jolie). Their story sees them meeting against the backdrops of disasters and wars. In real life, Jolie is a UN Goodwill Ambassador.

Asked which she prefers, the action roles or meatier, emotional roles, she answers, "Honestly, I like doing both, alternately. For me, the action roles are a lot of fun. I love pushing myself to the limit and would do all my own stunts if the studios would allow it. And I like to think that those roles have somewhat of a redeeming value. If my roles as an international action star inspire people to take care of their bodies better and work out more or travel the world, then I am all for it."

When I ask about her confirmed bisexuality, she says, in true Angelina Jolie style, "Wha... the big fucking deal? If people would get over the whole gay/straight thing and concentrate on making their lives better and being honest about who they are — if they are gay, bisexual, or minding their own business about other people's choices if they're straight — the world would be a much better place." ▼

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Marin Ballet

◀ page 31

are fine dancers. They are going to play the two young lovers and Bottom, the comic fellow in the donkey's head. It's a thrill and a learning experience for the girls in the school to be partnered by professional men." The whole thing is a learning experience, not just for the dancers.

Camp moves

"Normally, I set a piece in 2-3 weeks, but this is a 7-week experience, almost like a summer camp.

It's about care and teaching as much as choreography. I spend more time just moving bodies around to make the narrative points, and that's good for me, because it makes my mind work. I have to think of technical solutions, while making the kids look as good as possible."

Adam has had previous experience working with children. The Canadian dancer's mother runs a ballet school in Ottawa, where Adam has taught, and she did a summer workshop at Marin Ballet a few years ago, as well as making two previous ballets for the company. Closer to home, the

now-retired San Francisco Ballet principal ballerina (she danced 13 years at SFB) is the mother of 16-month-old Zoe Beena, "who loves the Mendelssohn; she dances around on demi-pointe when she hears the music." Asked if she wants her daughter to become a dancer, Adam says, "Only if she really loves it, because otherwise it is just too hard."

Adam's choreographic career started with a 1993 workshop at SFB. "I'd done some choreographic exercises in the National Ballet School in Toronto." At a two-week Choreographic Institute

next page ▶

BOOKS

Flights of fancy

by Jim Nawrocki

Changing Planes: Stories by Ursula K. Le Guin; Harcourt, \$22

For decades, Ursula K. Le Guin has been creating fantastic worlds. In her many novels and short stories, she has used the closely aligned genres of fantasy and science fiction to illuminate such issues as sexuality, feminism, and the role of science in society. In perhaps her most well-known novel, *The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969), Le Guin presents a world populated by androgynous human-like creatures whose societal structure and sexual culture confound and challenges the planet's human visitors. In her 1971 novel *The Lathe of Heaven* (made into a widely admired PBS film in 1980), she presents a main character who can change reality through his dreams. It's a story that, in part, seems to question the very nature of scientific endeavor.

Le Guin, like Doris Lessing and the late Philip K. Dick, has written some of the most challenging, thoughtful, and original science fiction in the language. Her latest book, a collection of interrelated short stories called *Changing Planes*, stands as one of her most charming and entertaining works. The stories are based on the premise, introduced in the book's first story, "Sita Dulip's Method," that travelers in certain airports can, by a combination of indigestion and concentration, travel to alternate planes of existence (thus the double meaning of the book's title). This method of interpla-

nary (not interplanetary) travel allows tourists to experience a multitude of intriguing worlds and their even more intriguing inhabitants. In most cases, they can travel to new planes and be back in time (thanks to time warps) to catch their connecting flight.

One could read *Changing Planes* as an elaborate joke on the drudgery of modern air travel, and that might suit some readers just fine, but the book is more than just comical escapism. It owes a lot to Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* and Borges' *Labyrinths*. The fact that Le Guin makes references to both these works certainly begs the comparison. Like Swift's Gulliver, Le Guin's travelers (there are many) encounter strange lands, customs, and histories that seem to make statements about our own way of life. There's even a sly reference to George W. Bush in one story.

A dog's life

In "Porridge on Islac," Le Guin presents a society in which genetic engineering has gone haywire, producing a stunning array of hybrids and freakish creatures who manage to get along, but not without annoying each other, as they go about their daily lives. At one point, an inhabitant of Islac complains to the narrator about the handiwork of Islacian genetic scientists: "There are talking dogs all over the place, unbelievably boring they are, on and on and on about sex and shit and smells, and smells and shit and sex, and do you love me, do you love me, do you love me. I can't stand talking dogs." There's a curious mix of comedy and iconoclasm in that

URSULA K. LE GUIN



statement that seems emblematic of Le Guin's work in general. She seems fond of pointing out the vanity of human wishes and the truth of that old phrase about what the road to hell is paved with.

Since Le Guin is the daughter of famous anthropologist A.L. Kroeber (who studied the cultures of California's Native American populations), it's not surprising that she writes about her imagined cultures with all the authority of a real ethnographer. She can create a convincing portrait of an entire, richly imagined social tradition in just a few lines, as she does in "The Fliers of Gy," a story of one plane's feathered inhabitants. In many other stories, she paints the scenes so vividly, with such wonderfully realized details, that one feels as if one is reading an actual travel guide. Each story is illustrated with fanciful, nicely detailed drawings by artist Eric Beddows.

In true Swifteen manner, Le Guin takes on an amusing array of targets in *Changing Planes*. The story "Great Joy" is a delightful spoof of marketing, particularly as it applies to the tourism industry. In "The Silence of the Asonu," her portrait of this nearly speech-free society seems a wry commentary on our own talk-show and tell-all culture. Other stories are more pensive and probe deeper questions. In "Wake Island," an experiment with willful insomnia provokes questions about the nature of happiness and of existence itself. Of course, all travelers come home, and Le Guin does, too, in the final story, "Confusions of Uni," which reads like a treatise on travel. Le Guin is an enlightening and entertaining fellow traveler. ▼

Marin Ballet

◀ previous page

tute sponsored by New York City Ballet, she was applauded for her ideas and began to think this might be a future career. She's made dances for the Joffrey Ballet, companies in Cincinnati, Houston, Atlanta, Oregon, Memphis and Nashville, where she used country music. But it was *Night* for SFB in 2000 "that put me on the map."

Some of her commissions have come as a result of relationships formed at the National Ballet of Canada, where Adam danced three years before joining SFB. That's where she met Cynthia Lucas, who, though born in Marin, was a dancer and ballet mistress at NBC for 26 years. "I've been obsessed by Mendelssohn's music, and since Cynthia wanted this piece for summer, it seemed a natural. Because it is essentially for kids, I'm not going into the sexual level too deeply. It's mostly comedic mix-ups, the fairies, the forest."

One of her ideas is to eschew conventional scenery and use the children themselves "as trees, leafings, butterflies. The look will come from the costumes by Christine Darch and the lighting by Lisa Pinkham." The music is taped, of course, as the school cannot afford a full orchestra. "This is a challenge for me, because I have to tell a story, using it as a springboard for choreographic ideas. The Mendelssohn is only 50 minutes long, so I can't fool around. And we're not doing anything else on the program."

As was obvious from *Night* and *imaginal disc*, Adam is not the kind of self-referencing choreographer whose work is "all intro-

verted dance for dancers. I like to think of the audience and its reactions." Not that she dumbs down. *Night* was a seriously mysterious ballet, but it projected its mysteries out to the viewers, and we, flattered at being engaged by the choreographer, ate it up. An "imaginal disc" is the DNA structure which allows a caterpillar to become a butterfly, but Adam really didn't want that information uppermost in the viewer's mind.

Usually soft-spoken and gentle, she becomes positively militant on the subject of program notes. "I hate them! They don't do anything but get in the way. I want people to watch the dance and make up their own minds what it is about. It was okay for people to find *Night* mysterious; I'm not sure I understood it all, either. And they didn't have to know anything about DNA or caterpillars to enjoy *imaginal disc*."

In other words, unlike many fashionable young choreographers to whom "obfuscation" is a defining theme, Julia Adam wants the viewers to participate in her work, to get involved, to be moved and to have a good time watching it. What an original concept, especially when the work is not simple, banal or easily explained. It's just like musicality. If it is there, you'll get it; if it's not, no explanation will help. ▼

Marin Ballet presents the world premiere of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* choreographed by Julia Adam, Sat., August 2, at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. Fine Arts Theater, College of Marin, Kentfield. \$22; children and seniors, \$14. Call (415) 721-9622 or go to www.marinballet.org.

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For all the macho postures, these mags signalled a decline in male power.

Macho men

◀ Arts cover

ladies. "Joy Girl" Prisoners of the Apaches" is on the cover of a 1961 *Escape to Adventure*, and it's colorfully illustrated with women in party dresses bound by savage Indians. A shirtless white man in the background is helplessly tied to a post, his chest glistening, restrained by two dark-skinned men with headbands over their long, black hair. In a separate teaser in the upper-right corner, a smiling blonde poses in a bikini, oblivious to the violence that goes on below her.

It must be noted up-front that women get the brunt of the torture in this universe, especially in a chapter devoted to Nazi shenanigans. The comely ladies are hog-tied in their bras and panties, whipped and covered in molten metal, frozen in human-size ice cubes or doused in gasoline. Either that or they're depicted as Third Reich She-Devils lording over torture camps. Again, the brashness is palpable, but sometimes these "Special Features for Red-Blooded Men" seem downright repulsive.

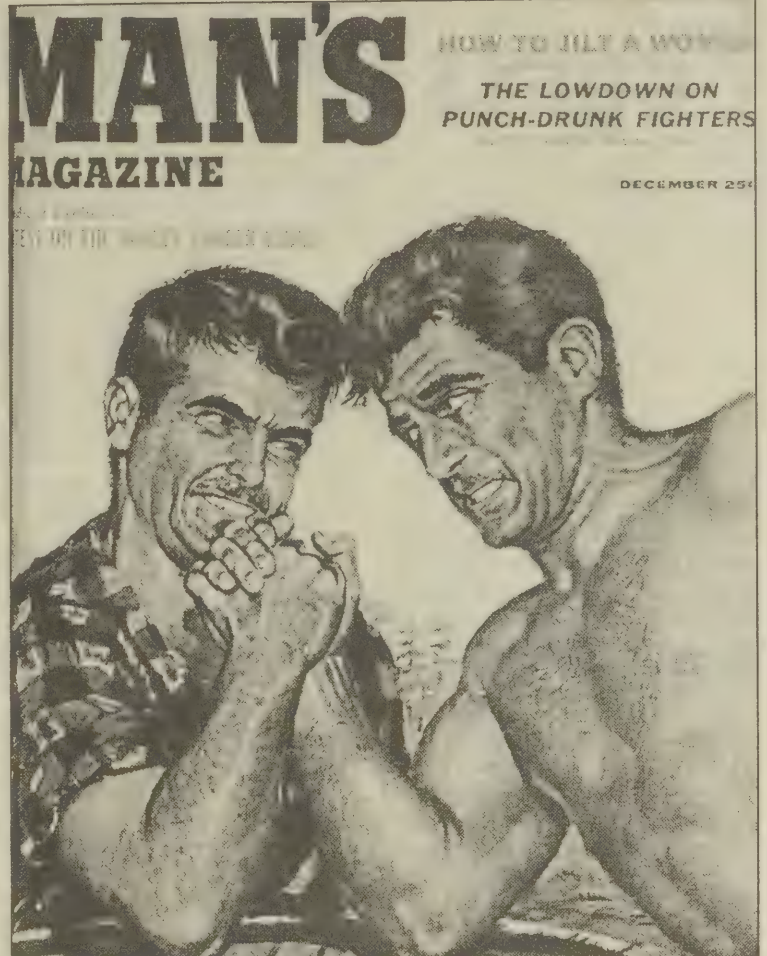
But the guys don't always get away with it. There's a recurring theme of shipwrecked buddies washing up on Russ Meyer islands and being ravaged by hungry topless women who prepare them for sacrifice to jungle gods or belching volcanoes. "We Battled the Man-Starved Nymphs of Corumba" reads a bit of cover copy.

A 1958 issue of *Sir!* features topless maidens dancing around a fallen bomb. "Has Our Lost Missile Become a Pagan God?" Were such fantasies testaments to lost manhood, the draining aspects of war, or the emasculating prospect of lifelong imprisonment in the insurance company office?

There's a definite discomfort to the sensuality that expresses the repressed attitudes of the 1950s, the kind of thing that artist Bruce Conner addressed with his cobweb-covered pin-ups, made during the same era. Both are queasy mixtures of sex, violence, bourbon and self-loathing. For all the macho postures, these magazines signaled a decline in male power. In the midst of the swagger are ads for gut-cinching trusses, essentially girdles for guys. Was the audience for these macho mags really a bunch of pasty wimps and fruits?

All-male world

For our readers, the all-male covers at least avoid misogyny, if



Who were these homoerotic covers and storylines intended to entice?

not racism or class issues. They feature swarthy white soldiers rescuing each other, battling coal-black savages, or lynching a swaggering loner who defiantly dangles his last cigarette from the corner of his lip. Most often, the guys are depicted with rippling abs appearing beneath shirts torn apart by ferocious cats or sadistic prison-camp commandos. The unrestrained headlines are campy, dudely delights: "Castration: Man's Greatest Fear," "Radiation and the Freaks of Tomorrow," "The Naked Truth about California's Bizarre Love Cults," or "Sin-Happy Vacationists are Overrunning Cape Cod."

The latter headline is on the cover of a 1956 issue of *Man's Life* illustrated with picture of a shirtless man waist-deep in rapids, in the midst of being devoured by nasty rodents. First person caption: "Weasels Ripped My Flesh." Such covers constitute a theme in which guys with face-stubble and torn clothes fight off "man-eating rats," bats, ants, lobsters, leeches and various fish with razor-sharp teeth. A Speedo-clad Adonis battles a sharp-toothed shark on the cover

of *American Manhood*. Grrrrrr.

Who were such images intended to entice? They're akin to the physique magazines of the '50s, cloaked under the rubric of health and fitness, only these "adventure" images are more colorful and in many ways sexier in their outlandishness.

Take, for example, a rather lusty black-and-white illustration titled "Naked Came the Cowboy," which depicts a sinewy, buck nekkid Robert Mitchum lookalike (indeed, Bob is a kind of poster boy for this genre) riding down Main Street on his trusty stallion. It was rendered by Mort Künstler, a superstar artist in this genre, but it just as easily could have been lifted from a Tom of Finland collection.

It's not difficult to find queer entries into this macho land. "I Saw Sex Drugs Work" was a story in a 1957 *Rage for Men*, but it could have been an exposé in a recent edition of *Genre*. In the same way, many of the submarine, boating, barracks, campsite, whatever scenarios have been played out for all their erotic appeal in countless gay porn films.

Manly yes, but I like it, too. ▼

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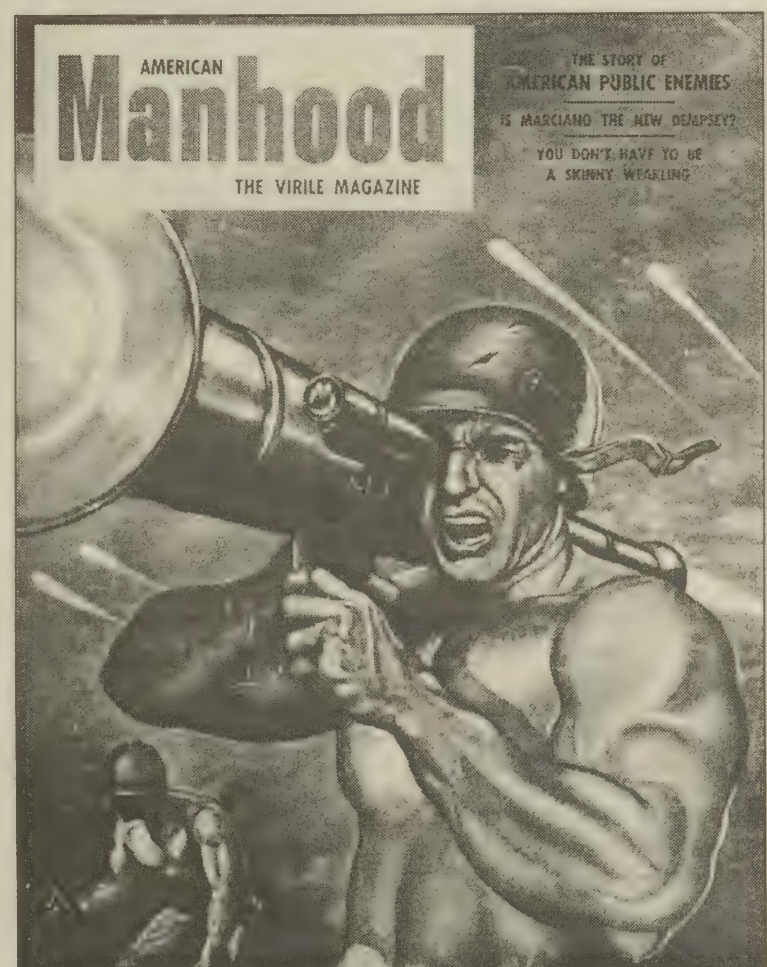
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Main screen: 2movies change Monday! 2movies change Fri
Lower Lounge Screen: Four movies change Wedn.
Upper Lounge Screen: Three Special Movies Change Fri.



Were these violent and explosive fantasies testaments to lost manhood?

BOOKS & DISCS

Sexual healing

by Jim Piechota

Traci Lords: Underneath It All by Traci Elizabeth Lords; Harper-Collins Publishers, \$23.95

Carrying around this curious celebrity memoir, with the multifaceted, tragically "victimized" Traci Elizabeth Lords seated demurely on the cover, elicits opinions, whether they were wanted or not, from everyone within eyeshot. "Oh, she's such a slut!" from some, to, "She's really had a hard life," from others.

Reading Lord's life story, you get the whole boggy history of one pissed-off gal whose poorly chosen teenage activities scarified her for life. But she insists that you cut her some slack and give her a break.

Born Nora Kuzma in 1968 to an Ohio mill-town family, she "developed" early. This made her an oddity in school and at home, where her predatory stepfather fingered her while she slept. Moving with the family to California, Lords fell head over heels for the school jock, who ended up raping her. A painful pregnancy termina-

tion ensued.

In 1983, Lords and her naturally sizable chest answered a newspaper ad for "models," and ended up being "coerced" with cocaine by talent agent "Mr. North" into posing nude for various magazines. That eventually snowballed into a 1984 centerfold for *Penthouse* magazine at age 15. "Mr. North" (actually named South in real life) appeared recently on NBC's *Dateline* program to vehemently deny any wrongdoing, but Lords describes him as just as "weaselly" today as he was back then.



by traci elizabeth lords

completing the manuscript in a matter of a few short months. The prose can be rushed and clumsy at times, but it's not that noticeable since the narration is broken up by generous sections of color photos showing the author as a beautiful girl, and an even more stunning mature woman.

At 35, she's already had a rough life. Lords seems to wear her turbulent past on her sleeve like a kind of armor — dented and rusty, but armor that she refuses to remove. But a healthy future filled with prospects (and a marriage in 2002 to manly bartender Jeffrey Lee) is what she tells us lies ahead for her. For Traci Lords, it's the rejuvenative process of finally coming around full-circle that makes for the sweetest revenge of all. ▼

Books for beach, beyond

by Gregg Shapiro

Although it's more academic and less edgy than its title suggests, *Andy Warhol's Blow Job* (Temple University Press) by Roy Grundman, who teaches in the Film Studies program at Boston University, is a fascinating book-length study about Warhol's infamous movie.

Subtitled "a family love story," Kathleen Finneran's acclaimed memoir *The Tender Land* (Houghton Mifflin), about the impact that her teenage brother's suicide has on her family, is finally available in a paperback edition.

Another memoir of interest to queer readers is *What Becomes of the Brokenhearted* (Doubleday) by E. Lynn Harris, the bestselling, openly gay African-American author of such popular novels as *Invisible Life*, *Just As I Am* and *Any-way the Wind Blows*.

The Crimson Letter: Harvard, Homosexuality and the Shaping of American Culture (St. Martin's Press) by Douglass Shand-Tucci follows the 19th- and 20th-century gay experience at one of the world's most prestigious institutions of higher learning. Subtitled "a handbook for lesbian, gay and bisexual people and their allies," *Everyday Activism* (Routledge), edited by Michael R. Stevenson and Jeanine C. Cogan, appears to be a valuable tool in the fight for equality.

Open House: Writers Redefine

Home (Graywolf Press) is a collection of essays edited by openly gay poet and writer Mark Doty. Among the queer writers in this collection are Rafael Campo, Bernard Cooper, and Paul Lisicky.

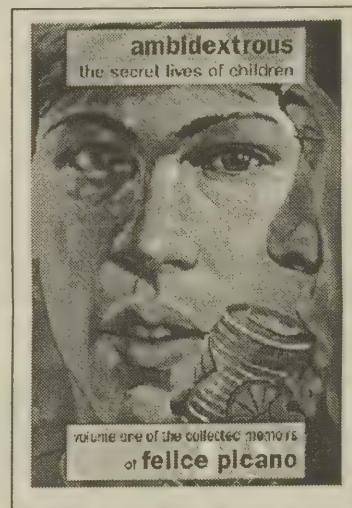
Media tie-in

Whether you are a television snob (don't own one, wouldn't watch it even if you did) or a television blob (at least one in every room, always on), *Every Nine Seconds: A Queer as Folk Novel* (Pocket Books), by Joseph Brockton, wants to make the most of your time. You can actually feel good about yourself because you are reading, if that's what it takes. However, no one will be fooled by the fake reading glasses.

There is no shortage of lesbian titles or characters in this summer's reading list. From the very specific nonfiction work *Tortilleras: Hispanic and US Latina Expression* (Temple University Press), edited by Lourdes Torres and Immaculada Pertusa, to Nina Revoyr's Los Angeles-set novel *Southland* (Akashic Books) to the paperback edition of Lambda Literary Award-winning novelist Nicola Griffith's murder mystery *Stay* (Black Lizard) to the "politically active lesbian daughter" in *Crawfish Dreams* by Nancy Rawles (Doubleday) to Nikki, the lesbian best friend of personals addict Martin in *The Losers' Club* (Ludlow Press) to award-winning author Lucy Jane Bledsoe's latest novel *This Wild Silence* (Alyson

Books), women rule the bookshelves.

Finally, we come to reissues. Two independent presses have taken on the responsibility of reissuing books by queer authors. Brad Gooch's "cult hit" novel *Scary Kisses* (The Overlook Press) and the three volumes of Felice Picano's collected memoirs *Ambidextrous*, *Men Who Loved Me*,



and *A House on the Ocean, a House on the Bay* (Southern Tier) provide these writers the opportunity to reach another generation of readers.

Not limited to young adult readers by any means, *Geography Club* (Harper Tempest) and *Keeping You a Secret* (MT Books/Little, Brown) both deal with the issues facing queer teens in high school. ▼

Eyes wide open

by Glen Helfand

Some things have changed in the 10 years since the making of *Silverlake Life: The View From Here*, which chronicles the cycle of AIDS as it affected filmmaker Tom Joslin and his longterm companion Mark Massi, both of whom ultimately succumbed to the virus. Not only has the LA neighborhood of Silverlake become a higher rent district (populated by many former San Franciscans), but the harrowing effects of HIV have been overshadowed by The Cocktail, steroid enhancements, and facial wasting. The current hot-button documentary deals with "bug-catchers" and bareback sex. Something classic, however, is in effect in this unflinchingly intimate video journal/documentary, a narrative in which a filmmaker chronicles, from a first-person videocamera

perspective, his own experience of AIDS. It's a bracing, disturbing vision that's difficult to watch, yet deeply powerful as an intimate story of life, love and death.

Joslin, a documentarian and teacher, died at 43 before the film was completed, and stipulated that it would be finished by his student and protégé, Peter Friedman. The finished verité film deals with its subject with a remarkable sense of honesty that works well for this DVD format. Both Joslin and Massi come across as good-hearted, dry-witted and deeply loving men who have good days and bad days, and show us with uncommon realism what they faced. What makes the film so remarkable is the way that the camera records the pain and the indelible bond. There are scenes of sweetness and humor as well as cracks in the armor that result in unbridled anger.

Massi is deeply afflicted with KS

legions, a symptom that seems almost mythical at this point in the continuing narrative of this health crisis, but in this documentary it's vividly visible, as is Joslin's inevitable withering to skeletal frame.

It goes without saying that *Silverlake Life* isn't pretty, yet it's an affecting, engaging experience that gay men would be well advised to experience as a document of history and a record of a solid relationship and the way it endured hardship. The DVD extras carry the story beyond the end of the original doc to an arty epilogue offering footage of how, after Joslin's death, Massi continued alone until his eventual death. Cinematographer Elaine Mayes and friend writer Bo Huston, who also passed to the effects of HIV, go into the couple's LA house and face the difficulty of how to deal with what was left behind — not the least of which was this remarkable document. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

AfroSolo + Aloha

Get out and grab some other culture this week. It's lovely to be immersed in our own LGBT world for much of the year, and it's also healthy to venture out to experience the rest of our city's multicultural delights. This week offers two great occasions for getting into different grooves.

On Friday night, August 1, The **AfroSolo Theatre Company** kicks off its tenth annual "AfroSolo Arts Festival," a celebration of African American artists giving voice to the Black experience. This year's expanded six-week festival will present works in the mediums of theatre, dance, music, spoken word, multimedia performance, and the visual arts.

The opening night gala/reception at **Burial Clay Theater** features the **Marcus Shelby Big Band** playing the works of Billy Strayhorn and Shelby's *Port Chicago*, a ballet inspired by the trials and tribulations of the lives of black sailors in the segregated U.S. Navy in World War II. Shelby has been playing acoustic bass for 23 years. He studied with composer James Newton and legendary bassist Charlie Haden. The Burial Clay Theater is part of the **African & African American Art & Culture Complex (AAAACC)** at 762 Fulton St. Tickets are \$25. Reception at 8pm.

The festival shifts to Yerba Buena Gardens (701 Mission St.) on Saturday, August 2, from 1-4 p.m., with a free concert featuring Bay Area R&B/jazz vocalists Rhonda Benin, Patrice De Arman, and Ricardo Scales.

On Saturday, August 9, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., at the AAAACC, the festival and a coalition of artists, youth organizations, faith-based groups, HIV/AIDS organizations and the health community present "Slammin' AIDS III: Learn > Teach > Live!" a day of activities to help educate the community about HIV/AIDS issues. It's free.

Aloha Festival

On Saturday and Sunday, August 2-3 at the Presidio Parade Grounds, The **Pacific Islanders' Cultural Association** presents the "9th Annual Aloha Festival" offering a welcoming family atmosphere for Pacific Islander music, Polynesian dance and traditional food, arts and crafts. Ukulele lessons, lei-making, slack-key guitar demonstrations, talks on the history of tattoo, and *kapa* (cloth)-making workshops abound. The organizers estimate that some seventy percent of those attending will be of Polynesian descent or *kamaaina* — long-time residents or those with strong ties to the islands, which include Fiji, Guam, Hawai'i, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau, American and Western Samoa, and Tonga. Free. 10am-5pm. **Presidio of SF, Parade Grounds** (Lincoln Blvd & Graham St). Info: www.pica-org.org ▼



Comedian Andre the Wonder Woman in AfroSolo Arts Festival X.



Stephanie Hunt plays in Word for Word's production of Angela Carter's *The Fall River Axe Murders* at Magic Theatre, Northside. See Thursday.

Fri

help @ Noh Space

help: human elemental laboratory of performance presents *dianne feinstein dancing in the park* and other works by John Baumann, Christy Funsch, Jennifer Gwartz, and jim saliba. A benefit for Huckleberry Youth Programs. *feinstein dancing* (construction/direction by jim saliba, costume design by mary armentrout) explores the desire for and fear of extreme action amid moments of distraction, repulsion, and the quest for the common good. *The Pledge* by Baumann asks: to what and whom do we pledge allegiance? A naive protagonist, eager to serve, pledges himself to an unknown duty. The ensuing moral struggle has a body count. Gwartz's *Worlds* is about the mental universes human beings create. Funsch's *Lisboa, Lost* is a dark comedy set in post-apocalyptic Portugal, featuring traditional fado music and live Portuguese guitar. Donation requested (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St. Tix/info: 456-3259.

BATS Improv Fest @ Bayfront Theater

BATS Improv's 9th Annual Summer Improv Festival (Aug. 1-24) holds the "Summer Games Semi-Finals," presented by The Main Stage Company. This summer-long Theatresports tournament comes down to the best four teams competing to see who gets the bronze, silver and gold. \$12 (\$10 students). 8pm. Bayfront Theater, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. B. Info: 474-8935; www.improv.org

'Heart of Drumming' @ MCC-SF

Barbara Borden and Vicki Zaleski lead "Heart of Drumming." Allow the sound and vibration of the Heart Drum to transform and inspire you. Pulse together in the Great Heartbeat of Life. Bring your own drum. A benefit for The Metropolitan Community Foundation, which provides services and advocacy for individuals — the hun-

gry and homeless, those living with HIV and AIDS, those facing discrimination — and works to change the systems that dehumanize them. \$10-\$20 sliding. 7:30-9pm. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. Info: www.mccsf.org

'Queer Nature' @ Fife's, Russian River

Club divas Jeff Chandler and Gary Green ("Cheap Trick," "Reform Skool") present "Queer Nature," their First Annual Weekend Getaway in the Redwoods, August 1-3. Your \$40 ticket includes bus up and back, campsite for two nights, Fri. and Sat. night parties, poolside parties, live music with Garrin Benfield on Sunday afternoon, and use of all Fife's Resort facilities. \$25 for everything above but the bus trip; \$20 for bus up and back and all the parties, but you arrange your own accommodations. Each campsite accommodates 4 people (2 small tents or one big one). Cabins 10% off if you call Fife's and tell them you're with "Queer Nature." Bus boards Friday at the SF LGBT Center (Market & Octavia) at 5:45pm and leaves at 6pm. Bus boards Sunday at Fife's at 7pm and leaves at 7:30pm. Advance tix available at "Reform Skool" (Thursdays) and "Cheap

Trick" (Fridays) at The Stud, 9th & Harrison. Tix/info: queernature@hotmail.com. Fife's Cabin reservations/info: 707-869-0656; www.fifes.com

'Faultline Festival' @ New College

Experimental Performance Institute at New College of California presents the "Faultline Festival," featuring an Emerging Artist Showcase of original dance and theater works by graduating EPI certificate students, including Bérangère Parizeau's hysterical bilingual clowns, Damon White's rump shaking, and tongue twisting Humpty Dumpty and Silvia Parra's border-crossing diosa. \$7-\$12 sliding. 7:30pm. 777 Valencia St. Tix/info: 437-3487.

'Spike Heels' @ Venue 9

Final performances: Inquiline Theatre Company presents *Spike Heels*, a comedy about sexual politics, written by Theresa Rebeck, directed by Brian Erlich. Andrew has the best intentions when he begins tutoring his neighbor, Georgie, in finer culture. He transforms the street-smart waitress into a savvy businesswoman despite her wanton past. But boundaries are violated when Andrew secures her a job in his best friend's law firm, forcing him to confront his own romantic feelings for her. \$15. 8pm. Last show on Aug. 2. 252 9th St. (btwn Howard & Folsom). Tix/info: 289-2260; www.inquiline.org

Sat

SFinX

@ Jon Sims Center

Jon Sims Center for the Arts and SFinX (San Francisco in Exile) present "Queer/Not From Here." Performance & spoken word featuring novelist and UFO magnet Michelle Tea (*Valencia, Chelsea Girls*), Sparrow 13 Laughingwand (*Hell Soup*), and the queer writers and activists Maher Sabry (poet and playwright, key Egyptian organizer in the infamous "Cairo 52" case), Naomi Azriel (a recent migrant from Israel), Buchi Miles (a recent migrant from Nigeria), and Sara Moore (poet, Eastern European organizer, traveler). They're at the crossroads of immigration, migration, alienation, and the twilight world of



Glam-Rama hosts "SUPER-DUPER" action-packed art thrills from Rene Garcia, Jr. See Sunday.

those who believe in aliens (or think they're aliens themselves). \$7-\$20 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St. & S. Van Ness). Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

'Faultline Festival' @ New College

EPI's "Faultline Festival" continues with free workshops and a panel discussion: "What Defines SF's Alternative Performing Arts?" Join Alan Quismorio (Artistic Director, JSC/Alchemy), Juba Kalamka (Deep Dick Collective), victoria mchichol kelly (poet/performer), Deborah Cullinan (Exec. Director, Intersection for the Arts) and Rachel Howard (dance critic) for the discussion. Workshops with EPI's visiting Master Artists in Residence giving a sample of their Fall semester classes. Free. 3-5:30pm. 777 Valencia St. Tix/info: 437-3487.

Camp Trans Benefit @ Voodoo Lounge

Benefit for Camp Trans 2003, featuring Michelle Tea, Shanna Virago, Julia Serano, Katastrophe, Charlie Anders, Sheryllyn Connolly, U.B. Mackin, Seely Quest & more. \$8-\$20. 9pm. 21+w/ID. Voodoo Lounge, 2937 Mission St. Info: www.genderenders.com

Shotgun Players @ John Hinkel Park, Berkeley

Shotgun Players perform *Mother Courage and Her Children* by Bertolt Brecht, translated by David Hare. Directed by Patrick Dooley. Commerce is the true engine of war. All other reasons are mere window dressing to the most fundamental question: Is there money to be made? Brecht wrote *Mother Courage* in 1938 as a warning to Sweden not to get involved in the crisis that was leading to the 2nd World War. Live music from an original score supports the comic irony of this

powerful epic. Free. 4pm Saturdays and Sundays until September 14. John Hinkel Park, off Southampton Avenue, between San Diego Road and Somerset Place in North Berkeley. Info: www.shotgunplayers.org

Andrew W.M. Beierle @ ADL Bookstore

A Different Light Bookstore welcomes novelist Andrew W. M. Beier, author of *The Winter of Our Discotheque*, the story of a Florida pump jockey's rise to the pinnacle of celebrity as the Golden Age of the modern gay lifestyle emerged, evolved and began to ebb during the 1970s. Free. 1pm. 489 Castro St. Info: adlbooks.com; winterofdisco.com

Art Deco Tour @ Pacific Heights

The Art Deco Society of California conducts a two-hour walking tour of Pacific Heights. See surviving deco features in 15 apartment buildings. Meet 11am at the corner of Gough and Washington Streets, and be prepared for hilly walking. Established in 1982, the Art Deco Society of California is a nonprofit historic preservation organization dedicated to the appreciation and preservation of the unique architecture, art, music, literature, fashion, technology, and entertainment of the era between the two World Wars. Tours are free to ADSC members and those who join on the spot; \$10 for others. Tours are cancelled in event of rain. Info: 982-DECO (982-3326); www.art-deco.org

David Hegarty @ Palace of the Legion of Honor

Renowned organist David Hegarty brings the Legion's famous Skinner organ to life in a pops concert featuring light classics and favorites from Hollywood and Broadway. Concert free. Museum entrance: \$8 adults; \$6 seniors; \$5 youth; children under 12 free. 4pm. Lincoln Park (entrance at 34th Ave. & Clement St.). Info: 750-3624; www.legionofhonor.org

'Midnight Mass' @ Bridge Theatre

Peaches Christ's "Midnight Mass" screens *Spider Baby* (USA, 1964), directed by Jack Hill (*Coffy*, *Switchblade Sisters*), a black horror comedy starring Lon Chaney, Jr. as guardian to a trio of teens (Sid Haig, Beverly Washburn, Jill Banner) afflicted with a rare disease that has caused them to regress to a cannibalistic state. Fully restored, uncut (!) 35mm print containing six minutes of extra footage! *Spider Baby* is not be missed! Come for the pre-show "Drag Queen Roller Derby!" \$8. Midnight. Landmark's Bridge Theatre, 3010 Geary Blvd. Tix/info: 352-0810; peacheschrist.com



David Ballog and Craig Stein wrestle over sexual politics in Inquiline Theatre Co's production of Theresa Rebeck's "Spike Heels" at Venue 9. See Friday.

Ben Tyler & Andrew Beierle

@ ADL Bookstore

Author Ben Tyler (*Hunk House, Tricks of the Trade*) signs copies of his latest, steamy novel *Gay Blades*, in which Tyler sets his sights on the backstabbing world of traveling ice-skating exhibitions and delivers an entertaining all-gay version of *All About Eve*. Tyler is joined by Lambda Award winner Andrew W.M. Beierle celebrating the paperback release of his best-seller *The Winter of Our Discotheque*. Free. 1pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891; adlbooks.com

Shweta Jhaveri

@ Ali Akbar College of Music, San Rafael

In concert: Shweta Jhaveri, one of the foremost Hindustani classical vocalists of the younger generation. Her specialty is the *Khyal* style of singing. She also sings *bhajans*, *tappa* and *thumari* styles. Uttam Chakraborty on tabla, Bruce Hamm on sarode, and Debopriya Sarkar on tabla. \$20 (\$15 seniors/students). 7:30pm. 215 West End Ave., San Rafael. Info: 415-454-6264.

Sun

Art Deco Tour

@ Downtown Oakland

The Art Deco Society of California conducts a two-hour walking tour of Downtown Oakland, led by ADSC Preservation Director Paula Trehearne. Convenient for Sunday brunchers, with plenty of on-street parking all day. Tours are free to ADSC members and those who join on the spot; \$10 for others. 1-3pm. Tours are cancelled in event of rain. Info: 982-DECO (982-3326); art-deco.org

Rene Garcia Jr.

@ Glama-Rama

Opening reception: Glama-Rama, the hair salon and gallery for rock stars and their friends, hosts "SUPER-DUPER," action-packed art thrills from Rene Garcia, Jr., from August 3-September 27. The solo show will open with a free gala reception on Sunday, August 3rd, from 5-9pm, open to the public. Expect a rockin' good time. Garcia reinvents popular art with huge, testosterone charged glitter paintings that glorify everything from sexploitation to science fiction. Glitter adds something superficially positive to Rene's art, even when elements of tragedy or drama are present. Sexploitation style women sell the American myth of turbo charged vi-



Shotgun Players perform Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children* in North Berkeley's John Hinkel Park. See Saturday.

olence. He captures the split second when a climaxing woman's expression shows both pleasure and pain. Heroes in his collection are also victims; Superman flies through the air atop his weighty wheelchair. Evel Knievel defies gravity despite arthritic pain. Fantasy is measured with reality, dipped in glue and covered in glitter. Music & refreshments. Free. 5-9pm. 417 South Van Ness Ave. Info: 861-GLAM.

Gwenfish Lucero

@ Red Devil Lounge

The Queen of Drag Rock, Gwenfish Lucero, makes her comeback in "Rock Your World." After a 10-year hiatus following her Klubstitute glory days, Lucero (aka Kevin Hudson) offers a special concert benefiting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, hosted by KFRC Radio's Cammy Blackstone. \$10-\$15 sliding. 7pm. 1695 Polk St. (at Clay). Info: 625-1100; www.leukemia-lymphoma.org

Mon

Queer Swing Classes @ Jon Sims Center

Queer Jitterbugs offers Beginning to Intermediate Queer Swing Classes. No partner/experience needed. 7pm beginners (4 week program, also on Wed. at The Center); 8pm level 2; 9pm level 2-Plus. \$13 drop in. Prepay \$40 individual or \$70 for two. Under 21 half off. Info: 305-8242; www.queerjitterbugs.com

'Theatresports RAW' @ Bayfront Theater

BATS Improv's 9th Annual Summer Improv Festival presents "Theatresports RAW." This Calgary-style Theatres-

ports match began in Canada over 15 years ago. It's a wild free-for-all night of improvisation. If you want to play, show up at 7:15pm, pay \$5, and work out with others. Captains will be chosen and teams will be picked. No experience or classes necessary, and no guarantee that you will play. If you want to watch, come at 8pm and see up to 28 improvisers on the stage. \$5-\$15. 8pm. Bayfront Theater, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. B. Info: 474-8935; www.improv.org

'Q-Sangha Mindful Monday' @ MCC-SF

"Q-Sangha Mindful Mondays" offers contemporary Buddhist spirituality for Buddhists, Christians and other seekers, open to all. Join them Mondays from 7-9pm in the Sanctuary for peaceful chanting, joyful singing, guided and silent meditation, walking meditation, dharma teaching and community sharing. Doors open at 6:30 for early meditation. While Ji-Sing is gone on his retreat, three dharma teachers from Spirit Rock Meditation Center will be guest speakers and facilitators. Tonight's speaker: Donald Rothberg. 150 Eureka St. Info: Ji-Sing at 415-865-2750; email QsanghaSF@aol.com; www.mccsf.org

Tue

Kundalini Yoga @ Lakeshore Church, Oakland

Kundalini Yoga begins today at three East Bay LGBT welcoming and affirming congregations. Kundalini Yoga emphasizes dynamic movement, spinal flexibility, breathwork and awareness. Wear loose clothing, bring a mat or towel, and an empty stomach. Beginners welcome. \$8 drop-in; \$40 eight-week session. 6:30pm. Lakeshore Ave. Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore, Oakland. Other times/locations: 510-841-4339.

Wed

Mark Richard Zubro @ ADL Bookstore

Best-selling mystery writer Mark Richard Zubro (*One Dead Drag Queen, Here Comes the Corpse, Sex & Murder.com*) signs copies of his most clever whodunit to date, *Dead Egotistical Morons*. Chicago Police Detectives Paul Turner and his partner Buck Fenwick have pulled the unenviable task of investigating the murder of the lead singer a hot boy band. But even initial appear-

ances are deceiving and as they dig deeper into the case, uncovering disturbing truths beneath the wholesome façade of Boys4U. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891; adlbooks.com

Thu

'Marsh Comedy Festival' @ The Marsh

The "1st Annual Marsh Comedy Festival" opens with venerable comic Darryl Henriques visiting from SoCal, previewing part of his one-man epic *The Exile Returns*, which features his bizarre Army physical, plus other hijinks, including *The People's Think Tank*. \$12 Thu; \$15-\$22 sliding Fri/Sat. Thru Aug. 9 (the festival continues Aug. 14-16 w/Scott Capurro, and Aug. 21-23 w/Phyllis Dantzer & Liz White). 1062 Valencia St. (at 22nd St). Tix: 826-5750.

Word For Word @ Magic Theatre

Word For Word presents "The Fall River Axe Murders," a short story by gothic writer Angela Carter, featuring the Word For Word core ensemble as well as director Amy Freed in collaboration with Jeffrey Bihr. Carter's writing is strongly expressionistic; she seized common folkloric motifs and rewove the tales. "The Fall River Axe Murders" explores the infamous Lizzie Borden case, slicing open the scene of the crime and imagining what happens just before "Lizzie Borden with an axe/Gave her father 40 whacks." \$27 (\$2 off for seniors/students). 8pm Tue-Sat; 3pm Sun. thru Sept. 7. Magic Theatre, Northside, Bldg. D, Fort Mason Center. Tix/info: 437-6775; www.zspace.org

'Ba-da-BINGO!' @ MCC-SF

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence present "Wild West Bingo," the theme of this month's hugely popular "Ba-da-BINGO" event. Your \$12 admission gets you 8 games of Bingo with cash prizes totaling more than \$1,700, special gifts, a chance to win a DVD player, a talking George Bush doll or a RePlay TV. Entertainment galore. Special live musical guest Rich McCulley. Player in best Wild West outfit wins \$50 cash. Doors open 7pm. 150 Eureka St. Info: www.BadaBingo.org

E. Lynn Harris @ ADL Bookstore

Acclaimed author E. Lynn Harris signs copies of his long awaited memoir, *What Becomes of the Broken Hearted*. It's the memoir of his life—from his childhood in Arkansas as a closeted gay boy through his struggling days as a self-published author to his rise as a *New York Times* best-selling author. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. Info: adlbooks.com

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Fun in the sunny alley

Peter Fiske is SF Leather Daddy XXI

by Mister Marcus

The town was overrun by tourists and the locals were out in full-force all last weekend as a score of events unfolded including the selection of a new SF Leather Daddy and new California Leather Man, Woman and Boy. And of course on Sunday, July 27 hordes of leather-people and friends descended upon Dore Alley, spilling out onto Folsom Street under balmy sunny skies to enjoy the famous "Up Your Alley Street Fair."

The weekend started with a meet & greet/basket auction at Daddy's on Thursday night as California Leather Man, Woman and Boy contestants offered up a myriad of items that will benefit the travel fund for the winners.

On Friday night, the 21st Annual SF Leather Daddy Contest took place at the Eagle Tavern. Four men vied for the SF Leather Daddy XXI title: Glen Fidi, Peter Fiske, Jay Hemphill and Rod Wood. They faced judges Will Brunner, Andre English, Jeff Hennes, Don Thompson and Keith Truitt, doing their best in the interviews and on-stage categories.

Donna Sachet kept the overflow crowd pleased with a musical delivery of much merit.

Jason Ladd and Tony Koester emceed the event, and their dialogue evoked laughter and guffaws throughout the evening.

When all the drawings, announcements and tallying were finished, it was almost 2330 when it was announced that Peter Fiske had won the title and become SF Leather Daddy XXI. It was a great evening.

Also on that Friday night, Mr. SF Leather Troy Anicete hosted a pre-Dore Alley party at the Powerhouse. So there was plenty of energy leading up to Sunday's event.

Saturday afternoon, the SF Leather Dyke Family threw an outrageous drag burlesque show at the Eagle Tavern, but there was so much going on I didn't make it to that event, but those who attended said it was outrageously erotic, campy and a great event.

California Leather

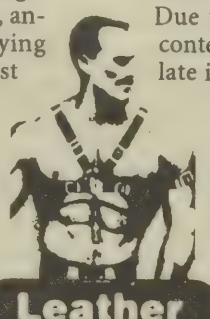
On Saturday night almost 300 people attended the California Leather Man, Woman and Boy contest at the Ramada Plaza Hotel.



Peter Fiske, right, is San Francisco Leather Daddy XXI. He was congratulated by SF Leather Daddy XX Tony Koester last Friday, July 25 at the SF Eagle.

The two boys (Jack Garcia and Tom Crowe), one woman (Ms. Evan) and one man (Master Jammer) vying for the California Leather Family titles were in interviews Saturday afternoon.

Due to power problems, the contest itself was a half-hour late in starting, but when all was in place it moved at a quick pace.



Leather

Lenny Broberg poured on the adjectives, Snatch had the place in an uproar with her dynamic number, and Irene Soderberg gets better and better with each outing. Both songstresses had some hunky men augment their dynamic renderings.

Judges Troy Anicete, Mary Elizabeth Boyd, Vibby Bramlett, Jeffrey Cooper, Bill Mitchell, Jeff Nowak and George Wong were greatly impressed with the quality of the contestants, and they admit it was not easy choosing a winner.

The contestants' interviews, speeches and onstage questions were impressive, and the fantasies they played out were outrageous, sexy and even humorous.

Assemblyman Mark Leno made an appearance (this time in full leather) and awarded a Cer-

tificate of Honor to producer Bob Brunson. Lenny Broberg was the first recipient of the Philip Turner Star Achievement Award, now to be an annual award.

Finally, tally master Rick Lubrano was ready with the results. The audience was in high suspense as the tally sheet was delivered to the stage.

Bill, Vibby and Jeff had earlier delivered their step-aside speeches with stand-up ovations following each — and they all had it timed to exactly 11 minutes each! Their last official duty was to pass the title and the winning medallions on the winners.

Ms. Evan got enough points to become California Leather Woman 2004; the scoring was tight between the two boys, but in the end Jack Garcia was awarded the California Leather Boy 2004 title. And the audience erupted in wild applause with the announcement of Master Jammer as California Leather Man 2004.

The issue of his real name is pending due to a co-worker "outing" him when, as the first runner-up at the Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2003 contest last March, he was found on a Google search. The winner is out to his family and now at his job, but the situation is

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, August 1-3

Northern California Regional Leather Sir & boy contest up at the Russian River, with a myriad of events militarily geared for this region. The action is at the Triple R, Rainbow Cattle, and Russian River Eagle, and the contest is Saturday night at the Odd Fellows Hall. Be there! In Phoenix, Arizona, the Southwest Regional Leather Sir & boy contests take place. If you'll be in the vicinity, you can get all the details by clicking on www.swleathersir.com.

Saturday, August 9

Mr. Hayes Valley Leather contest at Marlena's (488 Hayes St.) at 7 p.m. when Mike Dumont will step aside after a great year with the title. Entertainment by Snatch, Donna Sachet, and Chablis. Swap Raffle to benefit the MCC-SF Shower Project for the Homeless.

Weekend, August 8-10

3rd Annual Ms. World Leather competition in Dallas, Texas, at the host Radisson on Mockingbird Lane where rooms are only \$59. Karen McGee steps aside after a fabulous year with title. In Chicago, on Saturday and Sunday, it's the world-famous North Halsted Market Days, a sizzling weekend with special events at the world-famous Cell Block Bar. In Baltimore, it's the Mr. and Ms. Baltimore Eagle competition.

Weekend, August 23-25

The 2003 Leather/Levi weekend (and it's sold out already) at beautiful Saratoga Springs. In Indianapolis, it's the Great Lakes Leather Alliance weekend in Indianapolis. Try info@great-lakesleather.org and in Seattle, the Northwest Regional Leather Sir/boy competition. For info, email to msurreal1@aol.com.

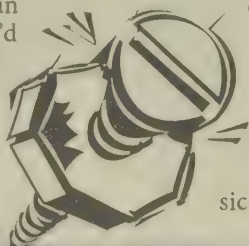
PORN

A pair of pretties

by John F. Karr

A thoroughly unnecessary voiceover at the start of *All American Ian Idol* promises we'll see "the transformation of Ian Idol from a cute sailor boy to a nymphomaniac." That's a scary proposition. Since only a nymphomaniac can experience nymphomania, I was worried we'd have to see poor Ian go under the scalpel. I'd much prefer he was transformed into a — what is it? Satyr? How about just big, sloppy bottom? Hold on, kids: he gets there.

Black-haired, lanky and handsome, Ian Idol is a pretty nifty package. But his calling card makes such a weak first impression that during the very opening I was tempted to skim forward. Restraining myself, I was rewarded only an hour



Karnal Knowledge

dreams. The editor's constant morphing and montaging makes a jigsaw puzzle of what was obviously intended to be a reverie on the beauties of youth.

When Ian finally gets it, the movie's soporific, ersatz jazz yields inexplicably to Schubert's heavenly Nocturne in E flat Major and then Tchaikovsky's melancholy "Andante cantabile." Both

are as inappropriate to Ian's enthusiastically picaresque bouncing on his partner's solid cock as the dreck it replaced. Then, as the fucking moves towards climax, classical's cut off midmea-

sure by some faceless, up-tempo

electronica. Musical matters aside, Ian certainly percolates when finally given the chance. For the rest, director Steve Jerome's passive moviemaking is unengaging. Only in the last 20 minutes does he allow Pretty its humanizing sister, Passion. www.allamerican-men.com; (619) 459-3500

Crack of porn

Like Ulysses, you could strap yourself to the mast. But why resist the Siren's call made by the photo of Niko on the cover of *Me, Myself and I*? He's so pretty it almost made my eyes crack: the classic Greek warrior, with chiseled features, sparkling black hair and midnite eyes, mink eyelashes, a body toned to the perfection of statuary, plus a butt that's a pair of muscular cupcakes; Niko's robust cock, whose bulbous head gleams with the moistness of sex when its tightly wrapped foreskin is peeled back, is crowned with *un petite appliqué* of pubic hair that's as severely decorative as his pencil-thin goatee and nearly accusatory gaze.

Niko performs his luxurious, unhurried solo in a room whose desert ochre walls are a near-match for his burnished body, and they shimmer around him like a nimbus. Is a nimbus any too special for a creature such as Niko? He's so beautiful you expect a halo. Although not a natural performer, Niko acquits himself well, maintaining eye contact while



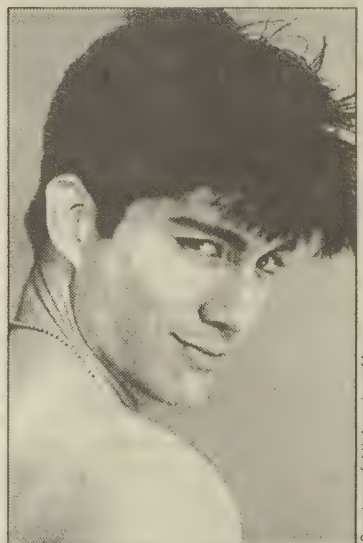
Niko: burnished body beautiful

providing penetrating views of everywhere and everything, an exciting climax, and finally, as he strolls away, a parting glance that slays. If you like to jack off to beauty alone, you'll cherish this.

I say that because the attention of Niko and the four attractive soloists who succeed him seems somehow diverted. Could it be director Dirk Yates, who's obviously off-camera calling out directions, and thus hampering his performers' more passionate involvement? And it's unfair of Yates — ludicrous! — to think that Niko's is an act that can be followed. Yet the runners-up (like Niko, all uncut) aren't bad. Victor Rios is a Brazilian who gets into his asshole, Rocky is a handsome bodybuilder who shows considerable passion, and Barret Long — well, Barrett has a dick the size of a canoe, but malleable, which he mauls in myriad positions until, socko finale, he rolls his legs over his head and creams all over his face and mouth. After which he delicately laps the remaining drops from the head of his cock.

Throughout, we endure music that's utter treacle, its tinge of melancholy unsuitable and, in its unchanging and constant application, as submersive as drowning.

Still, *Me, Myself and I* is a handsomely put-together, upscale event from a famously low-scale director (all those Marines in motel hell!) And it's not the other guys' fault that Niko came first. www.allworldsvideo.com; (800) 537-8024 ▼



Ian Idol: all in all, a nifty package

hence, in the last scene, when the film's lethargic pacing, enervated performances and awkward construction disappear as Ian proves enthusiastically receptive to a righteous working over by a passionate partner.

The first hour meanders as Ian somewhat aimlessly jacks off, while fantasizing about a succession of attractive boys whom we see rather irritatingly only in snippets: a Whitman's Sampler of sex-

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

delicate at this point in time.

The victory party was held at Daddy's Bar, and late into the night, the whoops and hollers echoed in Castro Canyon as celebrants honored the new icons. Job well done!

Out on Dore Alley

Sunday dawned bright and balmy. As early as 1030, eager men and women descended on the two blocks of San Francisco's famed Miracle Mile (how long has it been since you heard it called that, as it was in its earlier days?). Booths were set up, beer/adult beverages were available, and at every turn, hunk after hunk passed in review.

Would you believe, this year, the nude men parading around were the *right* ones to be hanging it all out — well, not *all* of them, but most of them.

People were dancing up a storm as the crowd grew minute by minute. By 1400, it was estimated some 14,000 people were



Meet California Leather Family 2003 (from left): Jack Garcia, California Leather Boy; Master Slammer, California Leather Man; and Ms. Evan, California Leather Woman. They advance to compete at ABW in April 2004.

there having a blast. Visitors from virtually every state in the Union were there, and a plethora of foreigners. Lots of hot leather/kink/latex gear was on sale, as well as the XXX-rated videos, food and kink material.

If you missed it, shame on you!

Even seasoned visitors were generous in their appreciation of the weekend, and that's good. We like people who keep San Francisco green by bringing their money.

It was a splendid weekend. See you at Folsom Street Fair? ▼

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BOOKS

Predators in every bush

by David Lamble

The full title of Anna G. Salter Ph.D.'s book is almost the word count for this review: *Predators, Pedophiles, Rapists, and Other Sex Offenders: Who They Are, How They Operate, and How We Can Protect Ourselves and Our Children* (Basic Books, \$26). The first word jumps off the cover, since it's the color of dried blood. The back jacket contains four blurbs, the last from Dr. Laura C. Schlessinger.

It's a book that raises all kinds of flags. It contains a mixture of valuable information, along with an extremely phobic if not outright paranoid world view.

A great deal of the book appears to be based on face-to-face prison interviews with men serving time for rape or sexual molestation, sometimes involving violence, on victims male and female, as young as three years old. Dr. Salter says she stumbled upon her life's work, studying and writing about such men, while setting up practice as a child psychologist in the early '70s.

"It seemed two out of three children I saw in the small mental-health center where I worked were sexually or physically abused or both," she says. "Over time, I developed the fantasy that my small town in New England was similar to the square mile in Mexico where all the monarch butterflies go. It must be the center of violence in the known universe. It had to be, if the official estimates of violence were right, because there wasn't supposed to be that much violence, anywhere, certainly not in small towns in the US."

Salter's initial baptism in this Peyton Place of abuse came about because she was trying to raise the money to purchase and maintain a thoroughbred horse. She got gradually closer to the men behind the crimes. "They tell me what you don't see, about the thoughts, feelings and hungers that drive them. They tell me how they operate and how they get away with assaults for so long. They tell me how they make assessments of people like you and me. I get to see, sometimes, the face we don't see in public."

Body language

Her most troublesome insights are contained in the final two chapters. "Detecting Deception" contains a useful digest for laymen of recent research on how to read

**PREDATORS
PEDOPHILES,
RAPISTS, AND OTHER
SEX OFFENDERS**
WHO THEY ARE, HOW THEY OPERATE,
AND HOW WE CAN PROTECT
OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN

body language for clues about when someone may be lying.

The last chapter contains the bad news. Using the analogy about the latex barrier used by hospital workers drawing blood, Salter states, "Assume every coach, every priest, every teacher is not likely to be a sexual predator, but one could be, and that you will not know if he is. Given that we cannot detect child molesters or rapists with any consistency, we must pay attention to ways of deflecting any potential offenders from getting access to us or to our children."

The world Salter promotes is a world of dead-bolts, security alarms, Internet filters, guard dogs; a world without summer camps, Boy or Girl Scouts, or any unsupervised time with strangers, for adults as well as kids. Her world is stripped of any spontaneous or unpremeditated impulse.

She's asked by a friend whether she would be suspicious of a young, unmarried man who adores children and loves spending time with them. "I have since met this man. I like him. There is nothing about the way he talks or acts that suggests he's a child molester — which means nothing and changes nothing. I won't leave my children alone with him. 'Liking' isn't enough for me to override what my head tells me. He is in a high-risk category, whether I like him or not." In Salter's world, someone as fishy as Lewis Carroll wouldn't have had any quality time with young Alice.

Salter's world view is perhaps best summed up in a quote from Joan Didion: "The universe that suckled us is a monster that does not care if we live or die — does not care if itself grinds to a halt. It is fixed and blind, a robot programmed to kill." ▼

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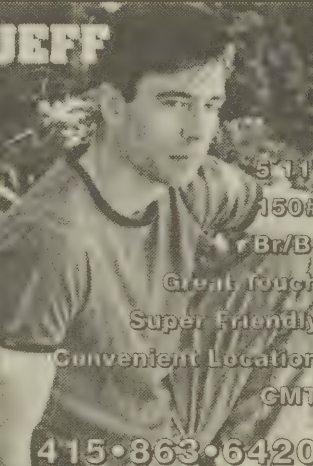
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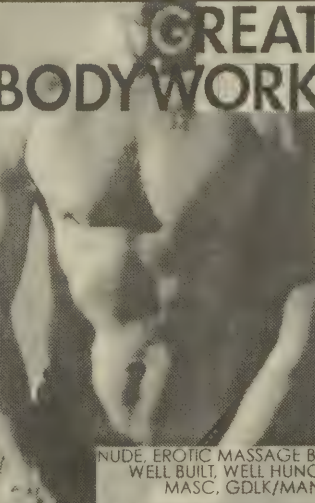
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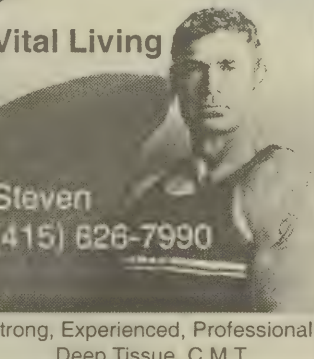


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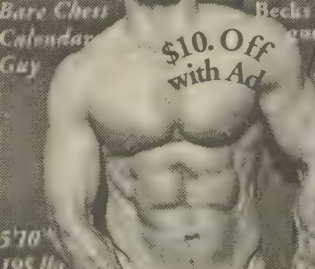
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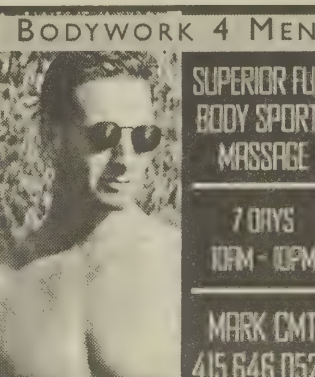
Bare Chest Calendar Guy
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\$10. Off with Ad
5'10"
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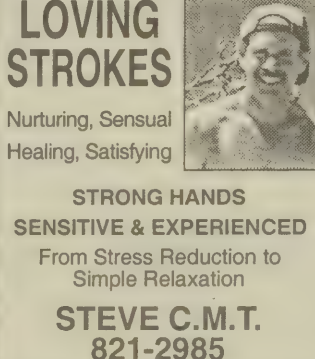
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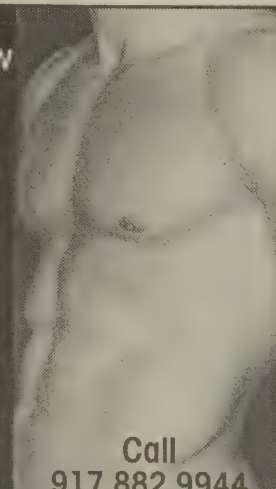
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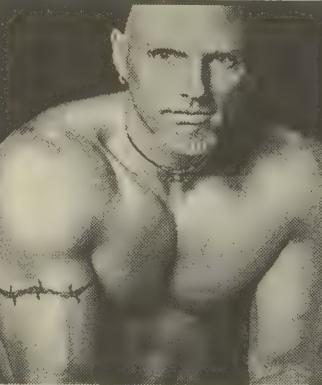
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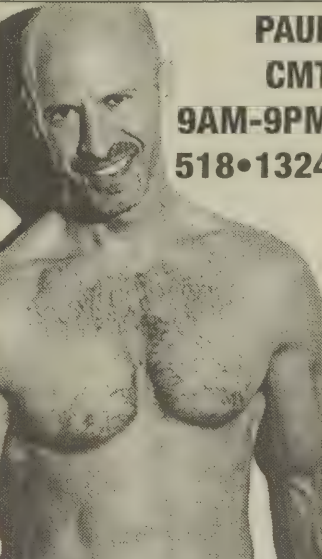
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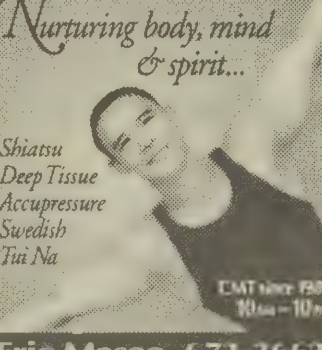


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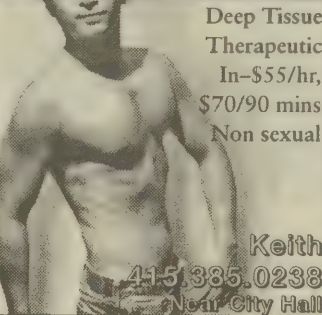
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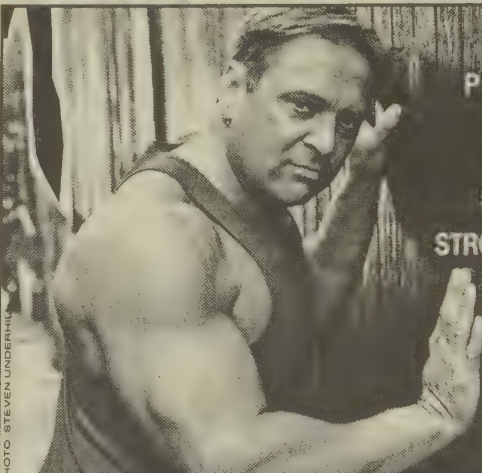
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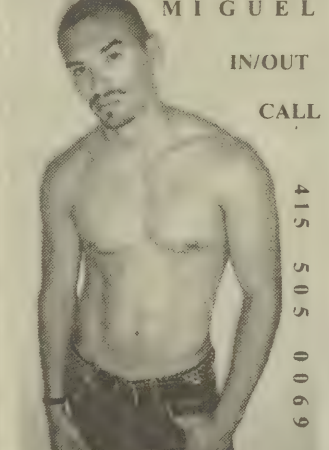
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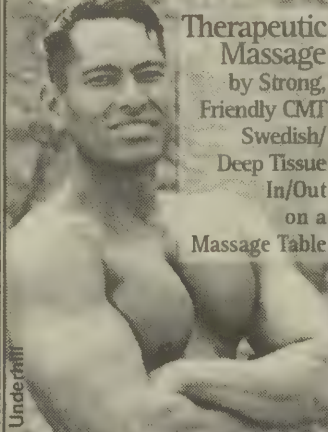
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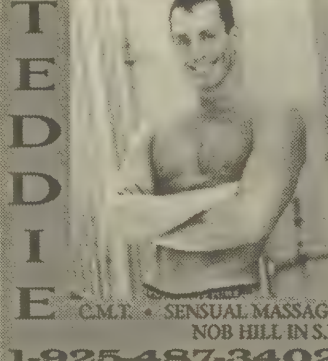
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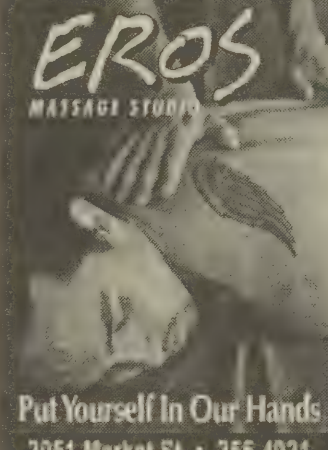


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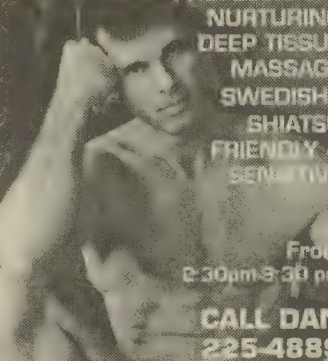
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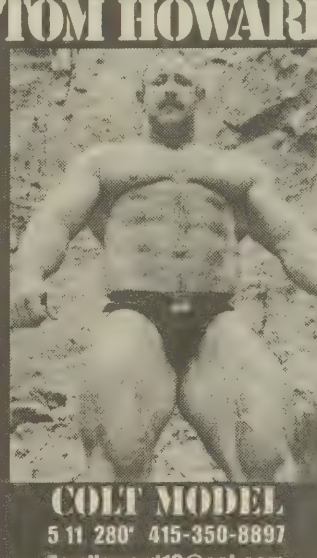


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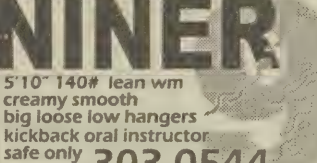


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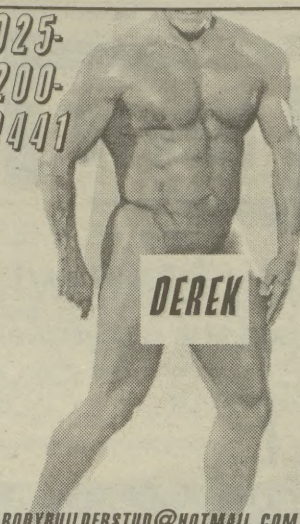
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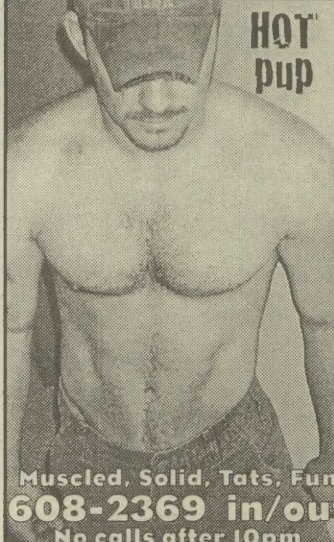
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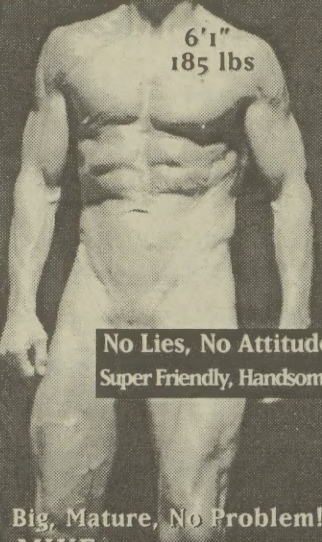
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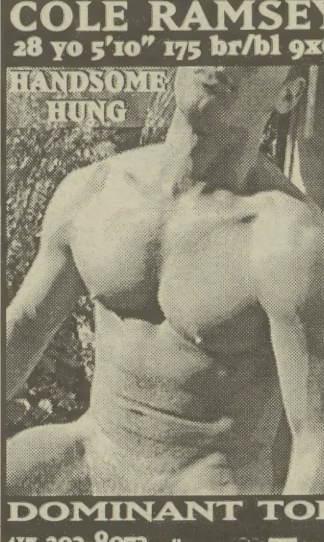


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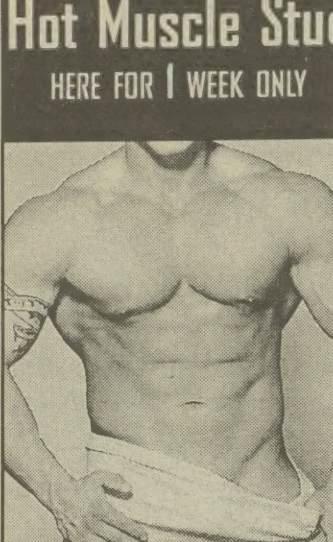
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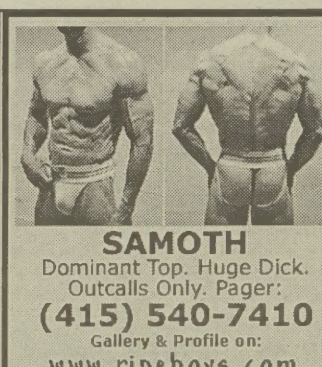
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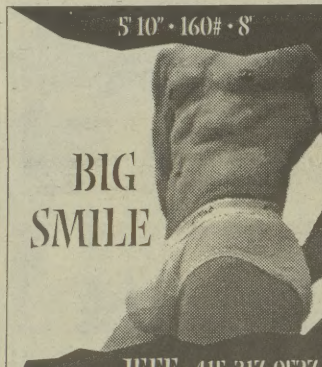
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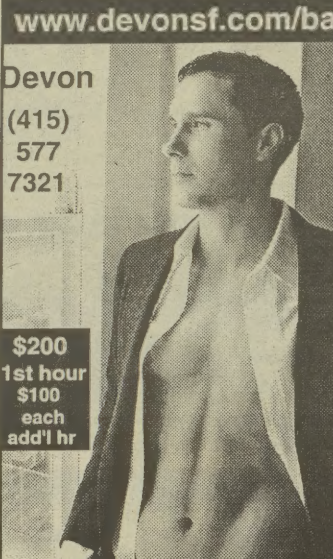
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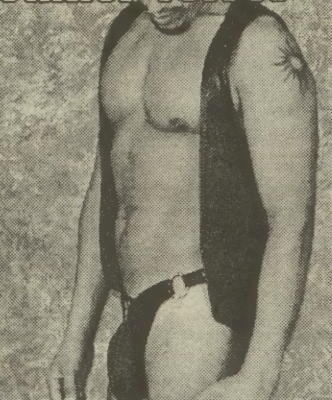
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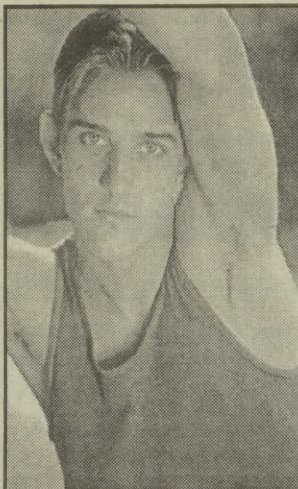
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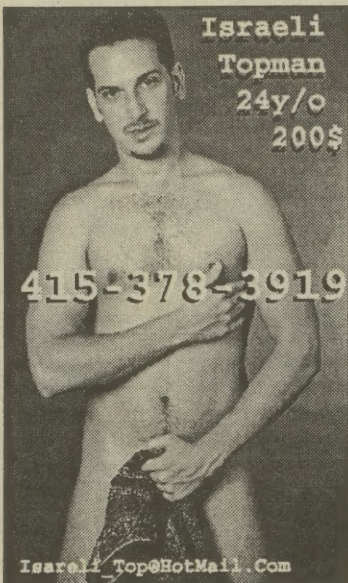
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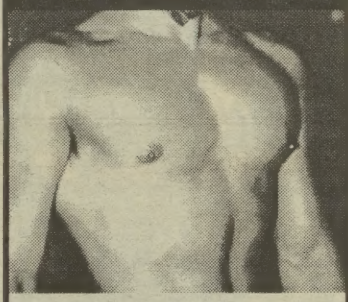
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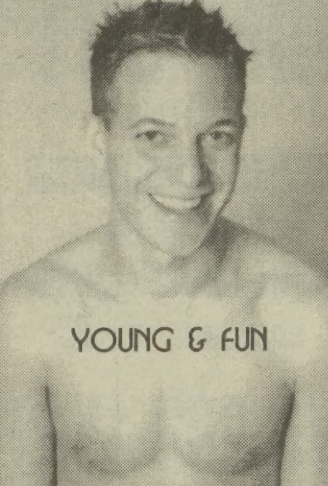
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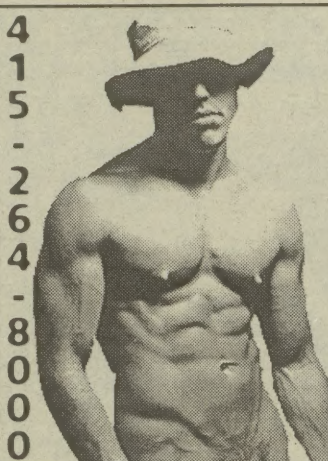
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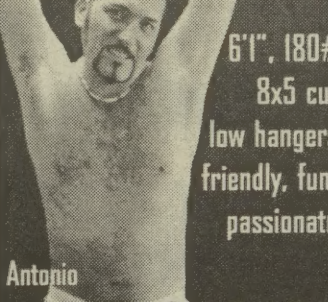
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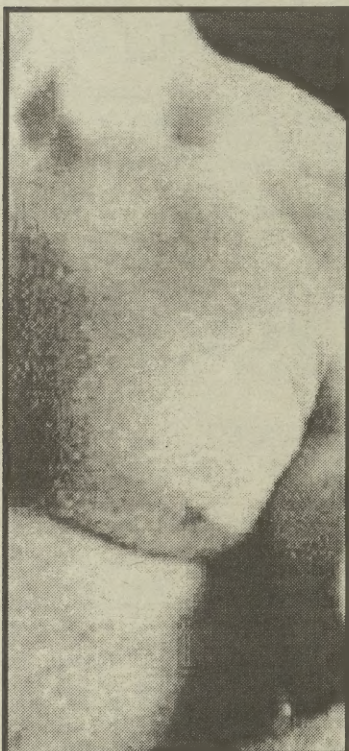
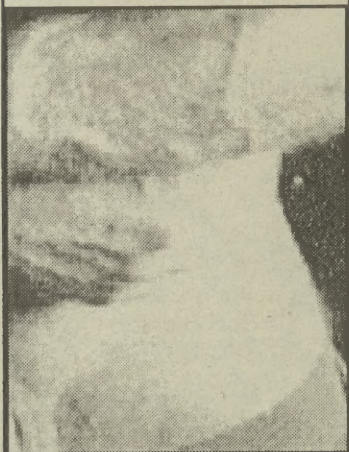
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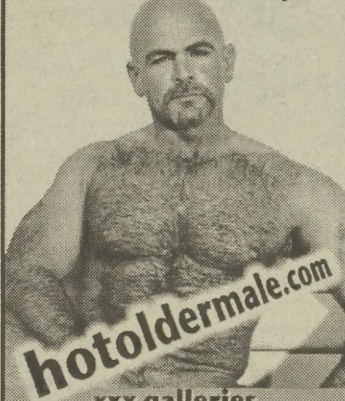
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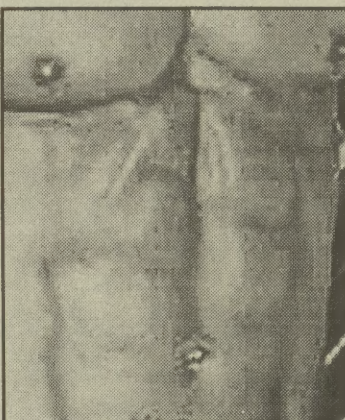
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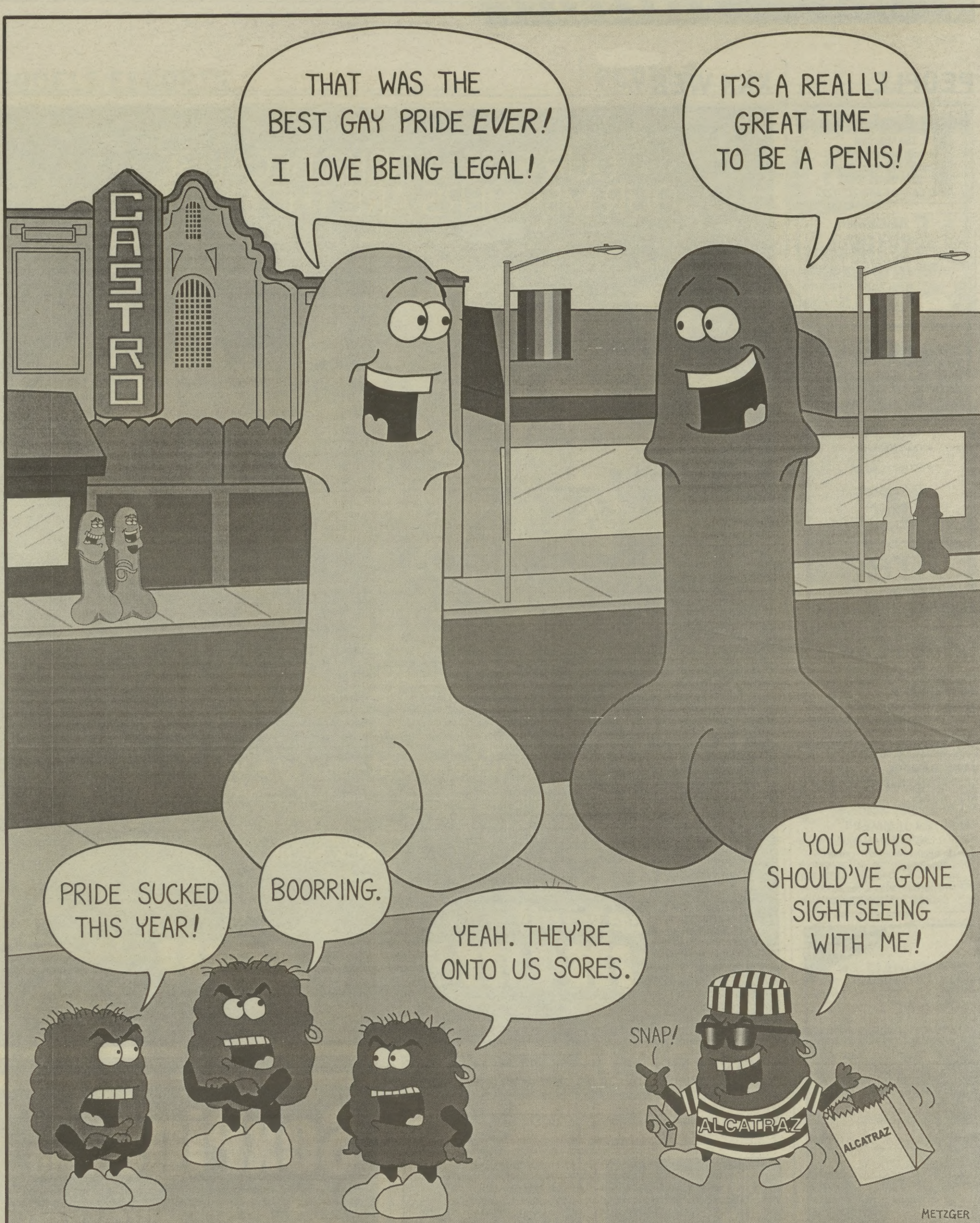
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